Embassy warns Americans in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — The U.S. embassy said Tuesday that it took "very seriously" the latest threat by extremists against foreigners in Egypt and urged Americans to take care. The warning was faxed by the embassy to American companies in Cairo. A copy was made available by one firm to the Associated Press. The notice said the embassy has no information the American community was specifically targeted. It added, "We must, however, take such threats very seriously," and urged Americans to "heighten their security awareness," and report to police any suspect activity or instances in which they are followed. The warning came a day after the extremist Al Gamaa Al Islamiya renewed its threat against foreigners. Repeating a warning of Feb. 2, the group urged tourists and foreign investors to leave, saying this was their "last ultimatum." The group statement was faxed to a Western news agency in Cairo.

Mubarak: Militants under control, page 10

Jordan Times

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Palestinian constitution almost ready

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian legal experts have almost finished drafting an interim constitution for the occupied territories, the head of the legal team said Tuesday. Anis Al Qassem told AFP the draft basic law would cover the five-year transitional period of autonomy, after which a referendum on a constitution would be held. Mr. Qassem, 69, helped draft the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) charter in 1964. He currently heads the legal commission of the Palestine National Council. The Palestinians would have to wait for a true constitution "as long as there is no Palestinian sovereignty," he said. The draft, based on the separation of powers, was inspired by American and British law, notably with regard to the importance of parliament and a supreme court judge, Mr. Qassem said. He was visiting Jerusalem, his birthplace, for the first time in 30 years. The next "takes due consideration of the Palestinians' fears" over their rights, Mr. Qassem said, and says that they can call the Palestinian interim authority to account.

Jordan urges action to end Bosnia war

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Tuesday condemned "the brutal aggression against innocent Muslim civilians in Sarajevo, and called on the United Nations Security Council and human rights organisations to stop the bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to establish peace and stability there. In a statement issued Tuesday, the government said the "brutal attack on innocent Muslims in Sarajevo early this week is a clear violation of values, ideals and human rights." It called on the international community to save the innocent civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the continous aggression and to lift the siege imposed on the Bosnian capital.

Majali meets Balawi

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdut Salam Majali Tuesday received Hakam Balawi, member of the Central Committee of the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Fateh and discussed with him the latest developments of the Middle East peace process, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian track, and bilateral relations. The meeting was atended by Information Minister Jawad Anani and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Israeli troops wound 12 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded nine Palestinians during clashes in the occupied territories Tuesday, Palestinian sources said. Eleven Palestinians were wounded in the Gaza Strip — 10 in the Jabaliya refugee camp and one in the Shati camp, the sources said. The sources said they included eight children younger than 15, but gave no further details. Another Palestinian was wounded in Jenin, in the north of the occupied West Bank.

Iran mines border

TEHRAN (AFP) — Security forces have planted mines and build thick concrete walls at sensitive points along Iran's eastern border with Pakistan and Afghanistan to keep out drug smugglers, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besbarati said Tuesday. State radio quoted Mr. Besharari as saying 840 kilometres of the border had been sealed off — nearly one-third of its total length. "The smugglers no longer have any possibility of passing through" the areas, he said. Mines bad been planted and in some places concrete walls measuring up to four metres in height and thickness had been built. Diplomats said the Iranian authorities had also built a road running most of the length of the eastern border, to monitor rontes used by drug smugglers.

Ukraine adheres to NATO initiative

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Ukraine became the first former Soviet republie to join NATO's "Partnership for Peace" initiative Tuesday but warned that the partnership deal could destabilise the security order in Europe. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko said although bis country supports the idea bebind the partnership programme he did not feel it would "strengthen the security in Europe but, on the contrary, might throw the situation off balance." "Ukraine considers tbe cooperation in the framework of the partnership as a street with two-way traffic," be added in a speecb to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. In addition to Ukraine, Romania, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia and Hungary have also signed on to the partnership deal which provides for wider military cooperation with former Soviet bloc countries but stops short of offering them, at least immediately, full NATO membership.

King urges government to ensure quality of food, water and drugs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday urged the government to give due attention to human resources and help meet the citizens' needs of water, food and medicine of high quality.

Addressing a Council of Ministers meeting, the King said: "We ought to conrinually develop our scientifie and technological capabilities and to adopt sound specifications and standards that would enable us to protect our citizens and to provide for their basic needs at the highest possible level of quality."

Voicing continued support for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his cabinet, the King directed the government to give due care also to education, noting that the coming stage bears numerous challenges requiring the citizens to be ready to face them.

Referring to other domestic issues, the King said the government should also give due attention to matters related to combating drug trafficking and to public administration reform whereby active and dedicated employees should receive rewards and these shirking duty should be punished.

"We should tackle our problems and issues with a degree of accuracy because by generalising we might create a distorted image about Jordan, especially as we realise that there are some people who might attempt to benefit from and exploit this situation," the King said.

At the outset of the meeting, the King, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, listened to the prime minister's briefing on issues being discussed by the Cabinet, including the sales tax draft law and the agricultural situation in the Jordan Valley.

The King reviewed the outcome of his visits to the United States, Croatia and Austria, describing them as highly successful.

The discussions in the U.S. focused on the need tbat a Middle East peace should be comprehensive and just, the King said, adding that he stressed that Jordan would not accept the idea of signing a peace treaty before discussing its articles.

"There is no alternative to discussing the topics on the Jordanian-Israeli agenda and agreement on all of them so that peace can be comprehensive and a peace agreement acceptable," the King said.

"It would he possible to implement some of those items before the signing of a peace treaty," he said. "If agreement is reached on the return of lands and on borders Jordan would then be able to regain its water rights."

He said that on this very point he found good response and understanding of Jordan's position from U.S. President Bill Clinton and his administration.

Referring to his visit to Croatia, the King said the Jordanian troops serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force there were performing their duty extremely successfully.

The Jordanian contingent is the second largest after the French unit serving in the former Yugoslavia.

Referring to his visit to Austria, the King said Austrian leaders expressed readiness for further cooperation with Jordan.

His visit to Syria, the King said, was basically to convey sympathy to President Hafez Al Assad on the death of his son as well as to discuss Jordanian-Syrian coordination.

King Hussein said that he briefed President Assad on the outcome of his U.S. visit.

He said he had found that Mr. Clinton had a good impression about his meeting with the Syrian president in Geneva.

The King said that President Assad "is always committed to his word and keeps bis pledges."

In a statement to the press following the Cabinet session, King Hussein referred to Jordan's effort to mediate the Yemeni crisis.

"We hope to have the honour of hosting our Yemeni brothers to save Yemen. We have done all that is in our power, and we will be very much pleased to contribute to solving the outstanding issues and differences witbin the Arab family," he said.

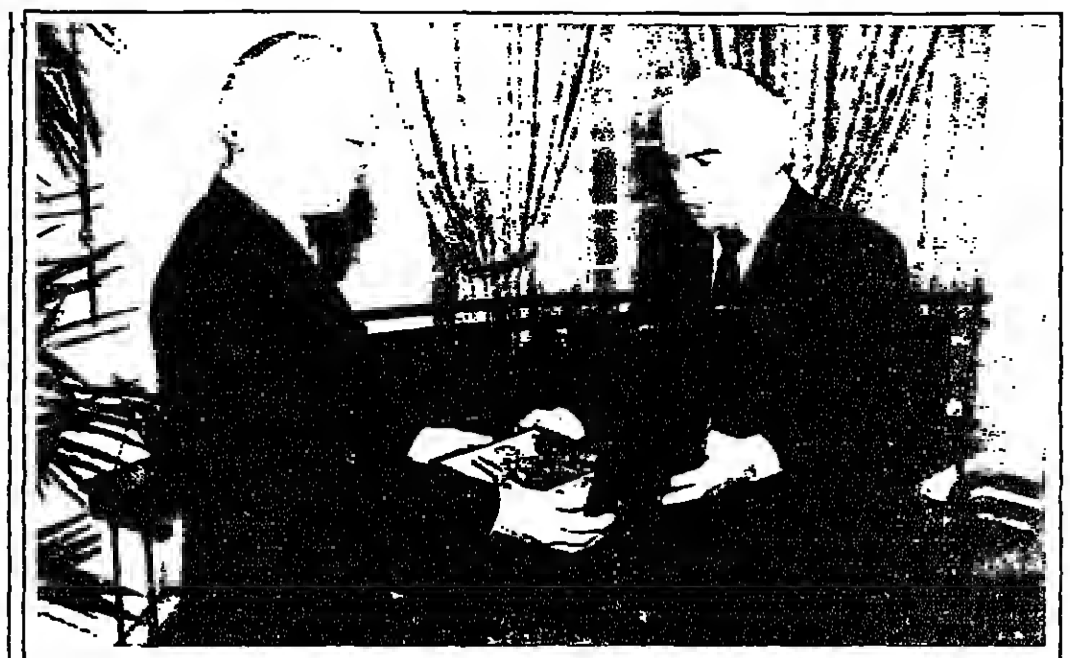
On the Middle East peace process, King Hussein said Jordan is observing all developmenis and reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestinians in their effort to restore their legitimate rigbts on their national soil.

However, the King said, coordination between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is not of a level that it should be.

The King said coordination with Syria and Lebanon was going well.

"We all sincerely hope tbat the peace march, which has gone beyond the point of no return, will continue and will lead to a just, durable and comprehensive peace which the future generations will accept," the King said.

On the Jan. 29 assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah in Beirut, King Hussein said the Jordanian government was following up on the results of the investigations carried out by the Lebanese authorities and thanked Lebanon for its efforts to disclose "the threads and dimensions of this ugly crime."



VETERAN HONOURED: His Majesty King *Hussein Tuesday presents the Al Kawkab Medal* of the First Order to Hisashi Owada, advisor to the Japanese Foreign Ministry and a veteran diplomat. Dr. Owada is also father of Princess Masako, wife of Japanese Crown Prince Narihito (Petra photo)

Israel, PLO report slow progress on self-rule deal

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israelis and Palestinians said their talks were going slowly on Tuesday and Egypt stepped in again to try to break through the obstacles to an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"We are going a little slowly but we are going. The discussions are positive but we have no results," said Nabil Shaath of the Palestinian negotiating team.

The negotiators worked through the morning while Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres waited in the wings in the hope of clinching a deal on Palestinian self-rule when the detailed work was over.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa spent an hour with Mr. Arafat and then went across the road to see Mr. Peres in the same Cairo hotel where the negotiators are meeting.

Mr. Musa, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres then had lunch together.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he expected "prolonged negotiations" before Israel and the PLO sign an agreement to implement Palestinian autonomy and start Israel's withdrawal.

"Even if we reach an understanding in Cairo it will only be tbe nucleus of key issues for reaching an agreement on the Gaza-Jericho accord," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio.

Mr. Rabin signalled that the process would be lengthy and that the start of Israeli withdrawal would not be soon although he gave no dates.

"After reaching agreement in Cairo, there will be prolonged negotiations to reach an overall agreement for Gaza-Jericbo first, before we will be able to implement it," Mr. Rabin said.

The delays in starting the autonomy have dampened the enthusiasm for the proposed autonomy on both sides.

The talks are mainly on the long deadlock over security arrangements after Israeli forces pull out of Gaza and Jericho to make way for an autonomous Palesrinian local government.

The Israelis were meant to start leaving the two areas on Dec. 13 but nothing happened because of the disagreements.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres arrived in Cairo on Monday, a week after they parted in the Swiss resort of Davos without agreement.

Uri Savir, foreign ministry director-general and head of the Israeli negotiating team, said, "They (tbe low-level negotiators) are working issue by issue on what was achieved in Davos. There is nothing else to say but the mood is O.K."

"There was no real achievement today but we hope to get something at the end of the discussions," added Faisal Al Husseini, who led the Palestinian team for many rounds of talks witb Israel in Washington.

Dr. Shaath said they had agreed on six minor points but he gave no details.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called Mr. Peres and invited him to his home for a three-way meeting with Mr. Arafat later on Tuesday, said Israeli spokesman Avi Gil.

YSP agrees to signing accord in Amman

ADEN, Yemen (Agencies) — The southern-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), headed by Vice President Ali Salem Al Beedh, has agreed to sign a reconciliation accord to end recent friction with political forces in the north, the party said.

A mediation committee, made up of delegates from the major Yemeni political parties, drafted an agreement and proposed that it be signed in Amman.

The YSP said it had also agreed that the signing should be held in Amman, and the committee within a week is expected to set a date for the ceremony.

Mr. Beedh has lately been at odds witb President Ali Abdallah Saleh of the General People's Congress (GPC), operating largely in northern Yemen, over the administration of the country.

Marxist South Yemen merged with more conservative Nortb Yemen in May 1990.

Nortb-south tension surged last week when both sides accused the other of sending troops to their former border.

Mr. Beedh left the capital Sanaa for his southern home in Aden on August 19, demanding political and economic reforms. He refused to attend a reconciliation meeting with Mr. Saleh in early January and said he feared for his safety in Sanaa.

Mr. Saleh has called for his vice president's immediate return following the signing of the agreement.

In a statement published on Tuesday, Mr. Beedh blamed the delay in signing the accord on those who refused to give guarantees that it would be carried out.

Mr. Beedh was clearly referring to the APC.

Mr. Beedh said: "The YSP ... asserts that this important document must be signed.

"(But) in the light of its assessment of its previous experience it asserts, and it has a right to do so, that there must be real and adequate guarantees that what is in the document will be carried out."

NATO struggles to agree terms on Bosnia airstrikes

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), its credibility at stake, struggled Tuesday to find common ground among the allies on possible air strikes in Bosnia before a key meeting that could bring the first Western intervnetion in the 22-month-old war.

NATO Deputy Secretary General Sergio Balanzino told reporters the 16 member nations were involved in "intensive consultations" and promised that a meeting of ambassadors on Wedensday would give a clear answer on what to do.

But diplomats said there were still differences among NATO members over how to proceed, after the 12-nation European Union (EU) backed the use of air power to relieve the siege of Sarajevo Monday.

The United States and some others favour endorsing a request from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for the alliance to prepare for possible strikes around Sarajevo.

The request came after Saturday's mortar attack on a crowded Sarajevo market which killed 68 people.

Washington and others argue that action would then be possible, with no further diplomatic consultations, beeause a U.N. resolution already authorises the protection of Sarajevo and other Bosnian enclaves designated as "safe areas."

France has said it would press for an ultimatum giving the Serbs a few days to pull back their heavy guns from the predominantly Muslim Bosnian capital, even if the idea was rejected by the EU ministers.

The idea was opposed by Britain, Greece and Spain here on Monday, although it was supported by Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands at a meeting of EU foreign ministers.

Any decision on air strikes must be taken unanimously by the North Atlantie Council, NATO's executive body.

But the pro-Serb socialist government in Greece, which took power in October, says airstrikes could trigger a wider Balkans war and is threatening to veto the move since NATO operates on consensus.

NATO currently has 170 aircraft, including 80 warplanes, deployed to enforce a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia. But it faced tough decisions in considering whether to unleash tbem against the Serbs.

The hardline leader of Bosnia's Croats quit Tuesday in what could be a key concession to the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the world community.

Mate Boban, president of the Bosnian Croats' self-proclaimed state of Herzeg-Bosna in soutbern and western Bosnia Herzegovina, had been damaged by a breakdown in a Muslim-Croat alliance against Serbs, and Croats' increasing

(Continued on page 4)

Artillery duels in S. Lebanon; Israel, Syria in war of words

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israel and Syria, the Middle East's most implacable foes, blamed each other Tuesday for renewed violence in South Lebanon that saw four Israeli soldiers killed in an ambush a day earlier.

Israel and its militia allies traded artillery and rocket fire with guerrillas Tuesday, keeping tensions alive, security sources said.

But there was no report of new casualties in the region, where the ambush Monday also wounded five Israeli soldiers.

Israel retaliated with air and artillery strikes on bases of Hizbollah, the group that claimed responsibility for the ambush.

Damascus radio Tuesday said Israel rather than Syria was to hlame for the Hizbollah attack.

"The (Israeli) occupation alone is to blame, and represents a great obstacle to peace," Syrian radio said.

Israel's forces in the self-declared *"security zone"* in South Lebanon "provoke resistance, and the occupation policies encourage it," the radio said.

It accused Israel of "distorting reality, and replacing peace, which should guarantee security in the region, with expansion and aggression."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Syria "can, if it wants, prevent the continuation of Hizbollah activities in Lebanon, even if the organisation takes orders from Iran."

"Syria has refused to authorise the Lebanese government to deploy reinforcements in southern Lebanon to put a brake on Hizbollah," Mr. Rabin added.

Syria, which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon, has often said it would not use its influence to rein in guerrillas in South Lebanon until tangible progress is achieved in the Middle East peace process.

Binyamin Ben Eliezer, Israel's housing minister and a close confidant of "Rabin, said the Jewish state would c... [illegible] er new measures to get [illegible] message across to Syria.

"There are cards that have not been shown," Mr. Ben Eliezer said. "This demands some sort of sign from Israel, an act, a warning."

Mr. Ben Eliezer said Israel *was not* contemplating withdrawing from the peace talks, which resumed in Washington last week. But, he said, Syria should know "there is a limit to our self-control."

Damascus Radio strongly rejected the Israeli accusations. It said: "Once again, Israel has used the Lebanese national resistance as a pretext to launch a wide-scale assault on South Lebanon and to hold the Syrian and Lebanese governments the responsibility."

Israel, added the broadcast, "is trying to turn facts upside down and forge the truth."

"Accusation speeds resistance," it said. "Peace will never prevail unless the Israeli occupation is eliminated and all Arab rights are restored."

Rabin disowns Beilin's comments

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office on Tuesday rejected a deputy minister's statement that the government would resign if it lost a referendum on a land-for-peace deal with Syria.

"Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin was speaking for himself," Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari told the Associated Press. "We do not relate to hypothetical situations."

Mr. Beilin told an audience of Jewish leaders in the United States Monday that the government would resign if it failed to get the mandate to give back the Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for a peace agreement.

"We will resign the same day and another government which doesn't believe that it is possible to make peace in our generation will take the reigns of power and will decide on the future of Israel," Mr. Beilin said in remarks broadcast on Israel Radio.

Mr. Rabin has said he will take any decision to make "substantial concessions" on the Golan heights to the people in a referendum.

Mr. Rabin said last month a referendum was justifiable if Israel were to cede a significant part of the Golan and uproot Jewish settlements there in a peace deal with Syria.

Mr. Beilin is one of the most outspoken doves in the ruling Labour Party.

Abu Nidal denies Maaytah murder

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Abu Nidal's hardline Fateh Revolutionary Council (FRC) denied Tuesday tbat it had murdered a Jordanian diplomat and eharged that Lebanese investigators were torturing Palestinian suspects.

The radical Palestinian group, which killed several Jordanian diplomats between 1983 and 1985, denied any involvement in the Jan. 29 murder of embassy First Secretary Nayeb Imran Maaytah.

Diplomatic sources in Amman said Monday that Lebanese police had arrested the alleged murderers of Mr. Maaytah, identifying them as two Palestinian members of the FRC.

State Prosecutor Munif Oweidat told AFP on Tuesday that a number of suspects had been arrested but he refused to identify them or say how many had been rounded up.

"The investigation will take time. We have some leads and we're working around the clock," in cooperation with Jordanian investigators, he told AFP.

The FRC, in a statement received by news agencies, said that the authorities had arrested some of its members, militants from other Palestinian factions and women over the past two days.

"A woman was tortured (and then released) and this proved that our comrades are being treated likewise," the statement said.

"The arrests and the false information and accusations (against the FRC) are part of a campaign to undermine the Palestinian presence in Lebanon," the statement said.

"We stress that we have no link wbatsoever with the assassination of the first secretary of the Jordanian embassy in Lebanon," the FRC said.

Beirut newspapers also reported on Tuesday that two Palesrinian men arrested on suspicion of killing Mr. Maaytah were FRC members. But Lebanese officials declined comment saying the investigation was not complete.

"We know the two arrested men are Palestinians but it is too early to reveal their political identity," said an official quoted by Reuters. He said the investigation was not complete and the government did not want to preempt it.

A Lebanese who witnessed the shooting has identified the suspect in detention. The witness said he saw the suspect at the scene of the crime, officials said.

A gunman, with an accomplice standing nearby, pumped at least seven bullets into Mr. Maaytah's head and neck as he was driving out of a parking lot near his residence in the Raouche seaside district.

Both the assassin and the accomplice were seen by witnesses running away through a narrow street into a crowded waterfront boulevard.

Investigators have been toiling tbrough more than a dozen

(Continued on page 10)

Algerian president says only solution is dialogue

RABAT (Agencies) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual said Monday there could be no solution to his country's two-year-old, violent political crisis unless there was dialogue with all parties, without exception.

Some 2,000 people have died in violence which officials blame on Muslim fundamentalists thwarted from parliamentary power when army-backed authorities cancelled an election.

"We know the political crisis can be solved only through dialogue witb all political forces without exception," Mr. Zeroual said in a broadcast, monitored in neighbouring Morocco.

In his first public policy statement since his appointment on Jan. 30, the former general said: "We are convinced that a security solution alone is not enough to get the country out of tbe crisis and solve the political, economic and social problems."

Officials blame poverty among the country's 26 million people for fuelling recruitment among tbe radicals. Algeria has a foreign debt of some $25 billion and its economy, based on oil and gas, has been hit by falling oil prices.

The president, who still holds the defence portfolio, said the Algerian army would "meet the challenges and do everything to help the country find an adequate and lasting political solution through dialogue.

"A return to security, stability and calm in the country will speed a solution to the crisis. We are going to employ all means to end the violence and bloodshed.

"The bloodshed is Algerian, the blood of our sons and daughters. It must stop. The use of violence for political change and to attain power is to be totally condemned," he added.

His appeal to all parties without exception appeared to indicate that dialogue could include the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) whose supporters are blamed by officials for the violence.

Mr. Zeroual, however, mentioned no names and made no specific reference to Muslim fundamentalists.

The country's first multi-party general election was scrapped in January 1992 after then-President Chadli Benjedid resigned. Diplomats said he was forced out by senior officials because of the fundamentalist advance.

In the subsequent violence, members of the security forces, armed militants, civilians and, since late last year, foreigners, have been killed.

The FIS had taken a huge majority in the first round of the poll but was later banned by an Algerian court and its main leaders jailed.

"In the political sphere, we have opted for dialogue as a way of remedying the present situation, despite difficulties and the besitations of certain parties. We are determined to continue a serious dialogue," Mr. Zeroual said in his 25-minute broadcast.

He appealed to foreigners to understand Algeria's need for calm. "We ask them to observe restraint in their declarations when evaluating the situation in our country," he added.

Diplomats estimate tbat some 3,000 foreign residents have left Algeria since militants warned they would become targets if they did not leave by Nov. 1.

A total of 28 foreigners bave been killed since late September.

The military-installed committee that ruled Algeria after the de facto coup until Mr. Zeroual took office made tentative calls for dialogue, but relied more heavily on security measures that have failed to quell the unrest.

Mr. Zeroual's speech indicated a modest shift in emphasis, but he vowed that "there will be no respite against those who use violence to destroy the country."

"Violence must be completely repudiated as a means of political action," Mr. Zeroual said. "No political, ideological or religious reason can justify crimes against people or property."

Mr. Zeroual urged those "who have not committed crimes against the nation to return to wisdom."

A market economy based on competition to replace three decades of Marxist stagnation will be a chief priority, Mr. Zeroual said. But his predecessors set similar goals and have failed to achieve them in a climate of unrest, high unemployment and falling oil prices.

Economic reforms are demanded by the International Monetary Fund. Algerian officials are currently negotiating a deal to ease service on the foreign debt.

In Bonn, the German government meanwhile told an exiled Algerian opposition leader, Rabah Kebir, to cease his political activities or face expulsion.

The action was aimed at forcing Mr. Kebir, a spokesman for the FIS, to clearly disassociate itself from the killing of foreigners in Algeria.

Mr. Kebir has said that the front has no control over the gunmen. But a German Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Kebir has done too little to distance bimself from the murders.

Earlier Monday, human rights officials reported that secret anti-terrorism courts have handed down 420 death sentences since they were created a year ago. Twenty-six have been carried out.

Kamel Rezzag-Bara, president of the state-linked national observatory of human rights, said that about two-thirds of the sentences were given in absentia.

Mr. Rezzag-Bara, in an interview publisbed in the independent daily Al Khabar, also said that some 500 people remain detained in two Sahara desert camps.

They are the last of thousands of fundamentalist sympathisers rounded up and detained without trial in the first major post-coup crackdown.

Meanwbile, the body of slain freelance television cameraman Olivier Quemener was repatriated Monday to France. He was shot and killed and his Australian colleague seriously wounded last week while filming in the capital's old Casbah quarter.

Mr. Quemener was the first foreign journalist killed since gunmen started turning their sights on foreign nationals last fall. About 30 people held a vigil Monday night in Mr. Quemener's memory outside the Algerian embassy in Paris.

RESISTANCE ATTACK: A shocked Israeli officer turns away from the evacuation of an injured colleague following clashes with Lebanese resistance fighters from the Hizbollah movement in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon (see page one). Four Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded in the attack (AFP photo)

U.S. commander defends Somalia peacekeepers' role

MOGADISHU (R) — The commander of U.S. forces withdrawing from Somalia has defended United Nations troops against accusations by international aid workers that the peacekeepers have been slow to protect them.

Major-General Thomas Montgomery stepped down as deputy commander of U.N. forces in Somalia on Monday, taking off his blue beret and weighing lessons for future U.N. peacekeeping.

At a windswept beach camp where he overseas the total U.S. withdrawal from Somalia by March 31, Gen. Montgomery told reporters Somalia showed that the international community must first be very realistic about what it wanted its U.N. forces to do.

He denied the United States was "chickening out" of Somalia because 18 U.S. servicemen were killed in a Mogadishu battle with warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's militiamen last Oct. 3.

But he criticised aid workers who complained U.N. forces were slow to help when a bomb blew a hole in the wall of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) compound on Sunday night.

"One thing I learned this year is that NGOs are incredibly hard to love, that they are demanding, that they are not happy when you help them and they're unhappy if you don't," he said.

"They often think they are in much more danger than they are and at other times when you think they're in danger they tell you to go away," Gen. Montgomery said. But he added they were important and he would have preferred U.N. forces to respond.

He said U.S. helicopters were overhead after the blast at the Seattle-based World Concern, which caused no casualties. Some workers speculated Muslim fundamentalists were to blame for the latest in a string of attacks on Christian agencies.

World Concern Somalia manager Robert Meredith said no U.N. forces appeared for hours after the blast despite promises to help and some U.S. staff would leave Somalia on early leave.

Aid agencies said Italian U.N. forces in the town of Belet Huen refused to stop a two-day rampage by gunmen nearly two weeks ago. The U.N. military said no request for help was made.

Gen. Montgomery said the United Nations in future needed a clear chain of command and the capability to field a force swiftly and effectively as powerful as the 30,000 troops sent to Somalia.

He said the 30 different states contributing troops to the largest ever U.N. peacekeeping operation always first checked with their own governments before agreeing on any action.

"Everyone calls home before they say yes to the force commander... we've got to figure that out better," he said.

The U.S. government withdrew support for keeping troops in Somalia after four months of conflict with gunmen and a failed manhunt for Gen. Aideed with 25,000 wild west-style wanted posters.

Gen. Montgomery will be the last U.S. soldier to leave Somalia by March 31.

UAE to tighten laws on recruiting housemaids

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to tighten the rules on hiring housemaids after growing complaints that they are being cheated by their sponsors and recruitment offices, officials said on Monday.

The housemaids and other domestic servants from South-East Asia, numbering nearly 180,000, are already under pressure over what officials say is their negative impact on the conservative, bedouin Muslim society in the UAE.

Dubai immigration chief Jumma Aman said the authorites had finished amending the federal law on the entry and hiring of housemaids.

"The new amendments, some of which were derived from related laws in other Gulf countries, include measures to determine the dutics and relationship between the housemaids and their sponsors," he told Dubai radio.

"This will cover all matters related to their job, including the number of work hours, salaries and other rights specified in their contract. The amendments will be enforced soon."

The new measures follow growing complaints by housemaids that they are being underpaid by their employers and forced to work longer hours. Police have also reported several cases in which recruitment offices violated labour laws and the contracts with their clients.

Police said the conditions were forcing housemaids to flee their sponsors and seek other jobs illegally. Some were taking up prostitution and others stealing and committing other offences.

"Domestic servants are seeking other jobs because they are being deceived and treated unfairly by recruitment offices over the nature of their work, salary and other matters," Col. Aman said.

"These offices' practices are also affecting sponsors, who are misled in the information they receive about the housemaids."

According to the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry, around 150,000 housemaids work for local UAE families and 30,000 for expatriates. Nearly 67 per cent of them are from Sri Lanka, 23 per cent from India, nine per cent from the Philippines and the rest from Bangladesh.

A ministry study showed the number of housemaids did not exceed 41,000 in 1985, but UAE families now had an average of two servants each.

Officials have repeatedly urged less reliance on nannies, arguing that they have an adverse effect on children in the UAE, as the majority of them are non-Muslims.

"People are urged to gradually lessen dependence on domestic servants, especially nannies," said Mohammad Al Suweidi, undersecretary for labour and social affairs, quoted by the semi-official daily Al Ittihad. "There should be awareness campaigns, as mothers are no longer playing their natural role."

A social expert with Dubai police, Sultana Othman, said the 366 per cent increase in domestic servants since 1985 was due to the high per capita income in the UAE, lax immigration laws and poor supervision of recruitment offices.

"Another reason is that some families want to show off by hiring more servants," she added.

Housemaids are paid between 600 dirhams ($163) and 1,000 dirhams ($272) a month.

There have been complaints that some employers underpay their housemaids, force them to work seven days a week or even do not employ them at all.

"I was brought here by a local man," a Sri Lankan housemaid told AFP. "He told me I could work for anyone, but I should pay him every year for allowing me to stay in the country."

Israeli court rules womens' rights override religious law

TEL AVIV (AP) — A woman's right to equal treatment overrides religious law, Israel's supreme court said Monday in a landmark ruling that angered rabbis while pleasing civil rights leaders.

The decision will require Israel's religious courts to incorporate civil law in their rulings, reducing a basic power enjoyed by Israel's clerics who govern marriage and divorce.

Ruling on an appeal by Hava Bavli of Tel Aviv, a three-justice panel ruled unanimously that a rabbinical court decision against granting her an equal share of communal property in a divorce settlement violated ber right to equality.

Ms. Bavli divorced in 1986, and rabbis ruled at the time tbat she was entitled only to the property guaranteed in ber "ketuba," a religious marriage contract. They ruled that the concept of communal property does not bold in Halacha, or Jewish religious law.

Israel Radio said the Bavlis, married for 30 years with three offsprings, owned property at a valne of abont $1 million, but that the rabbis would not consider this estimate in their ruling. The value of the religious marriage contract was not given. Generally such contracts have a minimal value of about $10,000.

Religious courts often allow divorcing couples to settle their property disputes in civil courts. But Ms. Bavli and her husband, Shmuel Bavli, chose to stick with the rabbis.

In her initial appeal of their decision, a Tel Aviv court ruled that Ms. Bavli had to abide by their ruling since she had agreed to let the rabbis settle the case.

Deputy Chief Justice Aharon Barak threw that decision out. He described Israel's woman's equal rights law as "supreme" over religious law.

"That law is not just intended for civilian courts, but must inform all jndgements and the rabbinical courts clearly must act according to it," he wrote.

Mr. Barak said the ruling had no bearing on religious court jurisdiction over other personal matters, leaving them full authority, for example, to deny a divorce to a woman even if her husband abandons her for years.

Still, rabbis viewed the ruling as a tbreat to their monopoly over Jewisb marriage rituals in Israel.

Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, a legislator for the United Tora Jndaism Party, introduced a bill in parliament to free religious courts of supreme court oversight.

Mr. Ravitz accused the supreme court of "imposing its supremacy... and cutting off the branch it sits on."

"This is a blatant violation of the status quo," a tacit agreement in Israel that allows rabbinical courts sole jurisdiction over marital issues, lawmaker Shlomo Ben-Izri of the religious Shas Party was quoted as saying.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran should protect might — Rafsanjani

TEHRAN (R) — Iran should preserve its military capability although it has no intention of going to war with any country, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was on Tuesday quoted as saying. Some Arab and Western countries have voiced concern about Iran's arms purchases, including submarines from Russia. But Tehran rejects charges of militarism, saying it spends much less on weapons than its Arab neighbours across the Gulf. Newspapers quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying on Monday: "Iran has never been for any war, the foundation of Iranian policy is good neighbourly relations and cooperation with all countries. At the same Islamic Iran should always be alert and should protect its military readiness and might." The newspapers and Iran's news agency IRNA said Mr. Rafsanjani was speaking during a visit to Tehran's Hadid military equipment manufacturing complex which they said manufactures "defensive equipment, major compartments of cement factories, oil valves and tankers, automobile parts, compressors, jacks and tools." Mr. Rafsanjani said 60 per cent of the complex's capacity goes to non-military products as part of plans to diversify industries.

Ben Ali seeks reelection as president

LONDON (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali said on Monday he had submitted this nomination to seek reelection for another five-year term. "I come forward again to undertake the trust and the leadership of the country, appreciating the responsibility of the position," Mr. Ben Ali said in a speech broadcast on Tunisian Television, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Moncef Marzouki, former president of Tunisia's League for Defence of Human Rights, said on Sunday he would stand in the presidential election scheduled for March 20. He has little chance of having his candidacy accepted as the electoral code stipulates candidates must have the support of at least 30 parliamentarians or leaders of municipal councils. The 141 seats in parliament and all municipal councils bar one are held by the ruling party led by Gen. Ben Ali.

MPs demand Rabin halt Congo trainers

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli members of parliament demanded Monday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin prevent Israeli mercenaries from leaving for the Congo. "There has been an attempt to mobilise soldiers just completing their army service to go to the congo to essentially support the government there and we called on the prime minister to halt the departure of this group." MP Naomi Chazan of the leftwing Meretz bloc told Reuters. Ms. Chazan said 40 mercenaries, veterans of army undercover units, were to leave for Congo on Tuesday. They had been hired by a private Israeli security company at $2,500 per month plus expenses to train Congo government soldiers. "This company is acting with the approval of the ministry of defence," said Ms. Chazan when asked why she and fellow Meretz MP Benny Temkin had asked Rabin, who is also defence minister, to stop the group. Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami confirmed receipt of the Chazan-Temkin demand. He also confirmed Israeli security companies working abroad must have defence ministry approval but refused to comment further. Ms. Chazan said she had heard the company had decided to delay the group's departure after Israel television reported her intervention. She said she hoped Mr. Rabin would take action.

Turkish troops kill five Kurdish rebels

ANKARA (R) — Turkish troops killed five rebel Kurds in two separate clashes in the southeast of Monday, an official statement said. The troops clashed with guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in Diyarbakir and Mus provinces, the emergency rule governor's office, based in Diyarbakir, said. More than 111,600 people have been killed in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK launched a campaign for an independent state in southeast Turkey.

Castro gets Jewish seal of approval

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's chief rabbi Israel Lau described Fidel Castro as "a great friend of the Jewish people" on Tuesday after meeting the Cuban communist leader in Havana. "President Castro is a great friend of the Jewish people who is deeply disgusted by anti-Semitism and knows the Bible very well," Rabbi Lau told Israel Radio in an interview from Cuba. "He explained to me that in his youth when he received a Catholic education he never believed that the Jews were collectively responsible for the death of Jesus," Rabbi Lau said after the first meeting between a Jewish religious leader and Mr. Castro. Mr. Lau added that during three hours of talks overnight the president expressed "admiration" for the Israeli leaders who launched the peace process with the Arabs. However, Mr. Castro was very cautious about a resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, which were broken off after the 1973 Middle East war. An overall peace settlement would have to be reached first, Rabbi Lau said Mr. Castro told him.

U.N. to help Lebanese non-hashish crops

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government and two U.N. agencies have signed a $4.2 million deal to help farmers grow other crops in place of hashish and poppy in the eastern Bekaa Valley. Under Monday's agreement, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and its anti-drug affiliate UNDPC will finance 90 per cent of the project while Lebanon will cover the rest. Measures will be taken to help farmers sell their produce and improve irrigation in the Bekaa Valley, where hashish and opium poppy cultivation were outlawed two years ago. The UNDP also gave the Lebanese government $452,000 to modernise and reorganise the Agriculture Ministry over the next two years.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Ordy
18:00 ..... N.B.A. sport
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Too Close for Comfort
21:10 ..... Documentary
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... The Man Who Cried

PRAYER TIMES

05:02 ..... Fajr
06:21 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
11:50 ..... Dhuhr
14:52 ..... 'Asr
17:19 ..... Maghreb
18:37 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Partly cloudy weather conditions will prevail and winds will be westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas active.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	4 / 12
Aqaba	10 /20
Deserts	3 / 14
Jordan Valley	9/ 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Oahieh 827195
Dr. Bassam Karadsheh 759200
Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 736072
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 756988
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoujh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Sharairi 248056
Al Ouds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarifi 900806
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muashi Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, 8 Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
08:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
16:35 ..... London (RJ)
16:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:25 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:00 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:10 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
01:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:05 ..... Rome (AZ)
09:35 ..... Cairo (MS)
10:30 ..... Jeddah (SA)
10:30 ..... Sanaa (IY)
12:25 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:35 ..... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PI)
18:15 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:45 ..... Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:45 ..... Istanbul, Rome (RJ)
10:15 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:30 ..... Berlin, London (RJ)
11:10 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
19:30 ..... Colombo (RJ)
20:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
20:20 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
20:30 ..... Aden (RJ)
20:35 ..... Aquba, Cairo (RJ)
21:30 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:55 ..... Beirut, Paris (AF)
06:25 ..... Rome (AZ)
08:15 ..... Beirut (ME)
10:25 ..... Cairo (MS)
11:30 ..... Sanaa (IY)
12:00 ..... Jeddah (SU)
13:30 ..... Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PI)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	650/550
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Cabbage	50 / 30
Carrot	180/120
Cauliflower	100/ 60
Clementine	260 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	140 / 90
Cucumbers (small)	260 / 180
Eggplant	150 / 70
Garlic	900/700
Grape Fruit	220/160
Green beans	700/ 500
Lemon	170 / 100
Marrow (large)	140 / 80
Marrow (small)	260 / 180
Olives (green)	700/500
Orange	420/ 100
Onion (dry)	350 / 150
Onion (green)	200 / 150
Pepper (hot)	280 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	280 / 200
Potato	250/ 200
Radish	120/ 70
Tomato	190/ 100
Spinach	120 / 60
String beans	640/ 500

210 new nurses, midwives graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor distributed diplomas to 210 trainees who graduated from the Rafida Al Islamiya and Nusaiba Al Mazeniya Colleges for Nursing and Midwifery in a ceremony at the Palace of Culture.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas addressed the ceremony, welcoming the Queen and thanking her for patronising the graduation.

He expressed the Ministry of Health's appreciation for her continued support for the classes of graduating nurses and midwives in Jordan.

In emphasising the ministry's keenness to expand nursing and midwifery education in Jordan, Dr. Malhas said that the ministry was aiming at raising the standard of training to meet the growing needs for health services in the Kingdom.

The minister stressed the important role of nurses in helping the ministry carry out its primary health care services which, be said, hinge on providing preventive and curative services.

In efforts to expand its nursing school facilities to absorb more trainees, Dr. Malhas said the ministry created a special department for nursing and health professions which is responsible for monitoring and developing the training of nurses in Jordan.

The Rafida Al Islamiya College in Zarqa and the Nusaiba Al Mazeniya College in Irbid are affiliated to the health ministry and currently provide training to more than 2,600 students.

By the end of 1993, the Rafidah Al Islamya College had graduated 15,004 trainees in nursing and 689 in midwifery, and The Nusaiba Al Mazeniya College graduated 230 nurses and 175 midwives.

Queen Noor was accompanied to the ceremony by the wife of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

Her Majesty Queen Noor and Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Tuesday pose with new graduates of the Rafida Al Islamiya and Nusaiba Al Mazeniya Colleges of Nursing and Midwifery

Maaytah assassination still under investigation — deputy premier

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar Tuesday said that investigations into the assassination of Nayeb Maaytah, the first secretary at the Jordanian embassy in Beirut, were continuing and he could not add to a statement Monday by Lebanese authorities that their security forces bad arrested a man in connection with the Jan. 29 killing.

Diplomatic sources said the suspect had admitted to being affiliated to the Abu Nidal group, the most radical among Palestinian political factions.

Dr. Abu Nowar was replying to a demand by Senator Hammad Al Maaytah that the government supply additional informaóon on the results of the investigations into the Jordanian diplomat's murder as well as the bomb blasts at the Rivoli and Salwa moviehouses in Amman and Zarqa.

Addressing a senate session Tuesday the deputy premier said he could divulge nothing beyond what Interior Minister Salameh Hammad had said about the investigations into the cinema bombings, but praised the security services for the capture of suspects in the case.

Mr. Hammad Sunday announced that two people had confessed to planting the explosive devices that rocked two movie theatres and injured several people. The interior minister said there was a broader plot to destabilise Jordan through subversion, and investigations were continuing.

Bahjat Talhouni eulogised

At the outset of the session, Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi eulogised bis colleague the late senator Bahjat Talhouni wbo died in Amman on Jan. 30 ar the age of 80.

In a brief address, Mr. Lawzi said that Mr. Talhouni had diligently and faithfully served the Kingdom and tbe Arab nation. His life was dedicated to the Hashemite throne, Jordan and the Arab people, Mr. Lawzi said.

Senator Ahmad Tarawneh praised Mr. Talhouni's endeavours and services to the country under very difficult circumstances. At the request of several members, the Senate postponed the appointment of a new senator to the late Mr. Talhouni's seat.

Senate condemns Serb aggression

Earlier during the session, Senator Ahmad Obeidat called on Jordan to strongly condemn what he called the brutal massacre of Bosnians at the hand of the Serb forces.

The world community and the United Nations are looking on while massacres are being committed against the Bosnian people and it is the task of this Senate to at least express its views on the situation in a manuer that would be proportionate to the magnitude of the tragedy, said Mr. Obeidat.

The Senate later issued the following statement:

"The Upper House of Parliament in Jordan has been following with deep concern the developments in the Serbian aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina and the on-going ethnic cleansing campaign against the defenceless people there, anc the atrocities committed against the civilian population under the nose of the civilised world.

"The last of the acts of aggression on tbe Bosnians was the attack on the marketplace in Sarajevo wben it was filled with shoppers resulting in tbe death and injury of many innocent people.

"While condemning this continuous aggression on Bosnia, the Upper House appeals to tbe world community to put an end to it through all possible means and military measures and to help end the siege on Bosnia to enable its people to acquire means for self-defence," the statement said.

It appealed to the international community "to stand by the sti .ggle of the people of Bosnia for an end to aggression and to ensure the respect for Bosnia's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Kingdom grants IOM U.N. agency status

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Tuesday granted the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) The same status as United Nations agencies under the U.N. Convention of 1947.

The IOM,n a governmental agency based in Geneva, offers belp to migrants as well as emergency assistance in refugee situations when the need arises.

The agreement granting the IOM the same privileges and immunity that are extended to U.N. agencies was signed for Jordan by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Hadid and for the organisation by its director of external relations, Peter Schatzer.

The IOM came to Jordan in strength during the refugee exodus from Kuwait through Iraq and Jordan following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Supported by funds donated by the international community, the agency offered bomeward transport for more than 200,000 third country nationals fleeing the conflict zone before, during and after the war that ended the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in February 1991.

The organisation was closely involved in helping Iraqis displaced by the Kurdish rebellion in north Iraq after the Gulf War move back to their homes as well as in arranging transport for their movements between camps in coordination with various U.N. agencies.

The IOM's operations during the Gulf crisis were directed from makeshift offices at an Amman hotel and a temporary office in Baghdad.

Sbortly after the crisis ended and the refugee flow ebbed, it moved to an independent office in Amman. Tuesday's accord streamlined the status of that office.

Georgette Hoshe, Jordan representative of the IOM, said the organisation now focuses its activities in Jordan on people given refugec status by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In essence, it offers transport to those refugees whose applications for asylum are accepted by other countries.

The agency also helps potential migrants. It provides basic details of the rules and regulations of the country, helps fill immigration application forms and prepares documentation, including translation and other related work.

While playing no direct role in the actual process that one has to go through in securing migrant status in any country, the organisation's activities help people in determining whether they are indeed following the required procedures supported by the right documents.

Equally important, the IOM's work goes a long way in eliminating the possibility of potential migrants being duped by middlemen and agencies.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Hadid (second from right) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Director of External Relations Peter Schatzer Tuesday sign an agreement granting the IOM the same status as United Nations agencies (Petra photo)

Uncle kills 25-year-old nephew

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 25-year-old Madaba man Monday was killed by his uncle after he allegedly tried to harrass a girl who had taken refuge at the uncle's house, police reports said.

The uncle, 44, identified as M.M.S., confessed to killing his nephew. He told police that his nephew, identified as N.F.M., came to his house Monday and tried to interfere with a woman who had sought refuge in his house, after a family argument. The woman was not identified.

The uncle asked his nephew to leave his house, but the nephew refused and started cursing and threatening M.M.S. The uncle drew out a gun and fired three bullets at N.F.M., striking him in the chest.

The victim was taken to Madaba Military Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The report did not mention if the woman was married or not, nor tbe reason she sought refuge. It made no mention of any relation between the victim and the woman.

Police have arrested the uncle and have seized the weapon used in the crime, pending further investigation into the case.

A police official told the Jordan Times that in the tribal tradition if a woman (married or unmarried) seeks refuge in the home of a close relative because she is involved in a family problem, the relative becomes responsible for her protection, as if she was one of his daughters, until her problem is solved.

"This was the same case, and the man (M.M.S.) had to kill his nephew to protect the woman according to tribal tradition," the official said.

Woman found dead in Zarqa

A 35-year-old woman was found dead Monday with eight bullet wounds to her body, according to Civil Defence reports.

The woman, identified as S.I.A., was a resident of the Masoum suburb of Zarqa.

A civil defence official told the Jordan Times that the woman was killed in a crime of honour by her uncle, identified as I.A.

Police declined comment on the crime.

Girl attempts suicide

An 18-year-old girl Monday was rushed to Al Bashir hospital after she attempted to commit suicide because she failed in her Tawjihi exams, police reports said.

The girl, identified as H.A.M., told police she swallowed some pills in an attempt to take her own life after learning her exam results.

Hospital sources said the girl was listed in fair condition.

Man shoots himself accidently

While chasing wild dogs in Tafileh Monday a 19-year-old man accidently shot himself, a police report said.

The man, identified as E.A., told police he was trying to kill the dogs when his gun went off and a bullet hit him in the leg.

The man was treated at Prince Zaid Bin Hussein Hospital and was listed in fair condition.

Elderly man dies in car accident

A car struck and killed a 69-year-old man Monday, according to police reports. Salim Sharafi was killed instantly while attempting to cross the street, traffic officials said. The driver of the car was a 54-year-old man.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen Alia remembered

AMMAN (Petra) — Today (Wednesday) marks the 17th anniversary of the death of Queen Alia who was killed in a helicopter crash along with the Minister of Health Mohammad Al Bashir and other officials. The late queen was on her way back to Amman after a tour of southern Jordan which took her to Al Tafileh Hospital where she discussed witb officials there medical services offered by the hospital to citizens in the Tafileh governorate. Queen Alia, who was always a defendant of women's rights, is the mother of Their Royal Highnesses Princess Haya and Prince Ali.

UNICEF to hold programme seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, a two-day meeting will start on today (Wednesday) at the Forte Grand Hotel to reviewed the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) programme of cooperation in Jordan. The meeting, organised jointly by the Ministry of Planning and UNICEF, aims to evaluate UNICEF's programmes in Jordan and define priority areas for future cooperation. Taking part in the review meeting will be representatives of Ministries of Planning, Health, Education and Social Development and major non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Participants are expected to come up with a course of action for achieving the global mid-decade goals and the goals of Jordan's National Plan of Action (NPA). Ensuring the complimentarity of roles of tbe various governments, NGOs and other partners, including international agencies, will be emphasised.

Minister inspects road progress

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour Tuesday inspected the progress on the second and third stages of the Amman-Jerash-Irbid Highway. Dr. Ensour met with the committees supervising and implementing the project and discussed with them means of speeding up work to open the road to traffic.

Yemeni official, Jordan's envoy meet for talks

SANAA (Petra) — Abdul Majid Zanadani, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, Tuesday received Jordanian Ambassador to Yemen Fayez Al Rabi' for talks on bilateral relations. Mr. Zanadani voiced hope that Jordanian-Yemeni relations would be enhanced. The Jordanian envoy expressed the Kingdom's readiness to promote and bolster relations with Yemen and expressed Jordan's keen interest in Yemen's unity.

CDD deals with 5,823 emergencies

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid Civil Defence Department (CDD) dealt with 5,823 emergencies during 1993, according to Itbid CDD Director Colonel Fathi Al Saoud. Col. Saoud said that of the total number, 4,533 incidents involved transporting sick and injured people to hospitals, 1,231 were fire alarms and 58 involved rescue operations. Col. Saoud said 94 people died and 4,799 were injured in these incidents. He said the CDD continues to inspect factories

Ministry urges creation of import control office

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad has called for the creation of an office in Amman to control and inspect imported goods.

Such an office would help insurance companies minimise their losses incurred through the importation of goods by air, land or sea, and would help monitor the handling of goods upon arrival in the country, said Mr. Awad in an address to a seminar held by Al Arab Insurance Company to discuss insurance issues.

In reviewing the insurance market operations in Jordan, it is clear that the Kingdom lacks qualified insurance consultants, he said.

Jordan is in need of such consultants for major insurance cases which have so far been handled by foreign experts who were brought to Jordan, said the secretary general.

Laws need modernising prior to encouraging investments — senator

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament member Naelah Rashdan has called for the modernisation of Jordanian laws to cater to the requirements of socio-economic development in the country.

In view of the major developments at the economic level, it is expected that Parliament will introduce new legislation or amendments to present laws in order to cope with such development, said Mrs. Rashdan at a seminar organised by the Professional and Businesswomen's Club (PBWC) to discuss laws on encouraging investments.

Her views were supported by Hind Abdul Jaber, the PBWC president, who said at the outset of the meeting that investments constituted the main key to containing the problem of unemployment.

Jordan's expertise, low charges attract Arab patients

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuter

AMMAN — Thousands of Arabs, attracted by Jordan's growing expertise in medicine are low charges, are flocking to the Kingdom for specialised surgery.

State-of-the-art hospitals mushrooming across Jordan offer treatment from neuro, open-heart and scopic surgery to micro-insemination, facelifts and other plastic surgery by foreign-trained doctors.

Impoverished Yemen traditionally spent millions of dollars on sending citizens to Germany for care. But Jordan estimates that more than 60,000 Yemenis came for medical treatment last year, plus thousands of Lebanese, Iraqis, Omanis, Saudis and Palestinians.

Bahrain is beading the same way.

Ghaith Shubailat, chief executive officer at Amman Surgical Hospital, said Bahrain had decided to use Jordan for its overseas patient treatment programme.

A mission from Bahrain's health ministry visited Amman and accredited Dr. Shubailat's multi-specialisation hospital and several other centres and clinics for the scheme.

Daoud Hanania

Ghaith Shubailat

Zeid Kilani

"The Bahrainis have been disappointed with treatment in Europe because it has been extremely expensive, and in many cases, it has not been satisfactory," said U.K.-educated Shubailat, one of the region's leading plastic surgeons.

Four decades of medical development in Jordan, its central location and moderate weather are factors in luring Arab patients. Treatment is also cheap.

"Hospital costs in Jordan are minimal compared to Europe and the United States," Dr. Shubailat said. A single room at his 24-bed hospital costs JD 55 compared to $900 in tbe United States.

Jordan has a fixed medical consultation fee of JD 10 a visit, a fraction of some of the specialist charges in the West.

Tbe multi-million-dollar Amman Surgical Hospital, owned by a group of private doctors, signed a cooperation accord last year with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, one of the world's top medical centres.

The agreement paves the way for a satellite link for medical consultation.

Dr. Shubailat and his colleagues hope to expand it as a teaching institute to end a "brain drain." Many Jordanian doctors work in the Gulf, mainly in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Jordanian heart surgeon Daoud Hanania, 59, who performed the Arab World's first cardiac transplant in 1985, and 14 other Arab investors have injected $20 million to set up the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery in Amman.

Saudi businessman Fahd Al Athel, a hospital management expert, is a key shareholder in the nine-storey 160-bed hospital due to open by June.

"Hopefully, the centre would prevent Jordanians from going abroad for treatment," said Dr. Hanania.

"At the same time, we hope it would act as a regional centre for other Arab nationals who would come here rather than go to the United States, Germany and England, where treatment is becoming too expensive even for the wealthy."

Dr. Hanania said a triple coronary bypass cost around JD 4,500 compared to $35,000 in the United States.

Jordan's Farah Hospital, whose nine-year-old experience in vitro fertilisation (IVF) has given new hope to hundreds of infertile Arab couples, is a major draw for foreign patients. It is run by Zeid Kilani, the Arab World's pioneer of test-tube babies.

Most of Jordan's top doctors and surgeons began in the army's medical services, which sponsored tbeir education at British and U.S. universities in tbe 1950s. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was the first Jordanian to return to work for the army as an ear, nose and throat specialist.

Jordan's 9,000-registered doctors and nearly 50 hospitals have belped it supplant Lebanon as the main provider of medical services for the Arab World. Beirut was the region's medical hub until a 15-year civil war began in 1975.

Jordanian doctors still have some persuading to do. Despite the influx of Arab patients, wealthy Jordanians still head abroad for specialised medical care.

"What bothers me sometimes," said Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas, "is that many Jordanians still go to Britain and the United States for no reason."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Wood-carving exhibition by artist Samer Ouisana at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery — Mecca Street.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Huda Sami Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720902).
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Windawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artists Akram Isawi and Jamal Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)
- ☆ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ☆ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Yasser Hmoud at the Baladna Art Gallery (Wasfi Al Tal Street).

FILM

- ☆ Programme entitled "Cajun Country: Don't Drop the Potato" on the culture of the Cajun people and their cultural heritage at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

WOLRDNET DIALOGUE

- ☆ Worldnet dialogue on "Arab Women Artists' Exhibition" at the American Center at 4:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Blocs versus states

THE EGYPTIAN parliament's decision on Monday to abrogate Egypt's status as a signatory to the agreement that created the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in January 1989 is regrettable to say the least. Needless to say, the move means Egypt's withdrawal from the economic and political alliance with Jordan, Yemen and Iraq. It is true that the council, formed at the height of political coordination and cooperation among the four member states, went into limbo after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and reviving it now does not look an easy task, given the state of isolation Iraq is finding itself in.

But it is equally tragic that one of its members found it fit to quit the alliance for whatever reason at a time when the shifting regional and international patterns underline the importance of regional blocs in the developing world to get a better deal from the developed world.

Launched as an ambitious grouping to gain the benefit from a collective impact of the material and human resources of the four countries while dealing with the outside world, the ACC got off to a good start and was holding out promises of fruits of sincere cooperation and coordination when the Gulf crisis struck it down. Going into apportioning blame for the tragedy that befell the Arab World is a futile, academic exercise and will not serve any useful purpose and will only open old wounds.

But, in a wider perspective, the Egyptian decision to quit the ACC raises another serious and grave question: Does it mean that Cairo has given up hopes that Iraq would be rehabilitated into mainstream Arab and international politics?

The reality that cannot be waived aside with any gesture, political or economic, is that Iraq and its 18 million people are a part and parcel of the Arab Nation. Indeed, Jordan's concern had always been and remains to be an anxiety to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. Regardless of whatever anybody had said or has or will say about it, the Jordanian stand remains firm that Arab and international efforts should seek to help the people of Iraq to survive the national catastrophe that has befallen them and eventually their country should reassume the rightful role it has always played in Arab politics and economics. The process might take some time, but the wounds have to be healed and Iraq has to be and will be brought back into the regional and international mainstream. And when that happens, we, the countries of the region, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and others included, would still be facing the same equation: Blocs vs. states in a world of cutthroat economic policies and markets against which we have to defend ourselves and protect our interests, something better served if done collectively.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday described as a vicious circle the futile Arab-Israeli negotiations, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian talks over autonomy rule. Twenty-seven years have elapsed since the endorsement of U.N. resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of Arab land, and despite the numerous meetings and conferences and mediation efforts, Arab rights remain usurped, said the paper. Any observer of the rounds of Arab-Israeli talks would realise that it is due to Israel's intransigent position that no progress has been achieved and due to Washington's condoning of Israel's policies that the Palestinians remain without a homeland and rights, added the daily. The Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular ought to declare their indignation against the United States, which is sponsoring the negotiations not only for its condoning of Israel's stands but also for its continued drive to render the talks ineffective through exerting pressures on the Arabs and rewarding the Israelis for their atrocities, urged the paper. It said that the United States is sending its forces to Somalia, to the Gulf and other areas of the world to help achieve its own interests under the U.N. umbrella, but it is doing nothing to stop the massacre of the Muslims in Iraq and Bosnia and allowing the Israelis to pursue their atrocities against the Palestinians despite the U.N. resolutions on ending the occupation. The paper called on the Arab parties to put off the peace process so as to take stock of the situation and jointly determine the next step to safeguard the Arab Nation's dignity.

Al Dustour discussed the situation in Bosnia following an upsurge of Serbian atrocities against the Muslims of Bosnia. It seems that the bloodbath that occurred at the hands of the Serbs is not enough to convince the western countries of the need to take action and save the innocent people of Bosnia, said the paper. Western leaders are regrettably ignoring the cries of the bereaved families, and shirking responsibility towards other humans in despair, and are now trying to find a pretext for their failures by announcing that they are still investigating the source of the shells that caused the recent massacre in Sarajevo, noted the paper. All the threats of the use of raids against the Serbs are not genuine; and this is a fact that is not only known to the Bosnians but also to the Serbs, who feel encouraged to pursue their atrocities on the Bosnians, continued the daily. Never were the western threats serious nd never was there any contemplation of resorting to and air raids against the Serbs, for the simple reason that the West continues to impose a ban on weapons supplies to the Bosnians to defend themselves, said the daily. It is no use to shed crocodile tears on the situation and offer the Bosnians lip-service and verbal sympathy, said the paper. It said there is need for the Bosnians to receive weapons for self-defence and a halt to all Serbian atrocities.

Arab-Americans and government — progress, prospects

By Dr. James Zogby

At this year's National Leadership Conference last month, Georgetown University History Professor Hisham Sharabi noted that while Arab Americans have made real progress in gaining respect and advancing their agenda in U.S. politics, they still have a long way to go. Prof. Sbarabi, in particular, cited the absence of Arab Americans in key administration policy-making positions, and observed:

"Among the ethnic groups in the United States we are, ironically, in some ways, the one that most resembles the Jewish American community. With that community we share many bidden qualities and many more obvious anxieties and concerns. Bnt one notable area where we definitely differ, is in our access to government positions. Whereas Jewish Americans are eagerly recruited to all kinds of sensitive positions in government — for example, in the State Department — Arab Americans are conspicuous by their absence, even in fields and functions for which they are uniquely qualified. I find this difficult to understand or to justify.

"As we grow stronger and more united, we should go beyond the position we are in now — basically, really, of self-defence — and move to reclaim our rights as Americans, including the right to public service in positions for which we are qualified and for which we should expect to be rontinely and equitably considered."

On both levels, the praise for the accomplishments and the problems of tbe Arab American community, Prof. Sbarabi's comments were echoed throughout the conference and serve as an important capsulisation of tbe Arab American position today.

Clearly, Arab-Americans have made significant progress. During the past 20 years, since the creation of the first oational Arab American organisations, the community has made its presence felt in U.S. politics. Over 400 Arab Americans serve as elected and appointed officials throughout the U.S. This year over 40 Arab Americans have already announced their candidacies for elective office in states all across the country.

And, as I have noted before, this year's National Leadership Conference brought an unprecedented array of administration officials to address the Arab American community. Vice President Al Gore's appearance marked the first time that a vice president had ever addressed Arab Americans.

Like Prof. Sharabi, Mr. Gore praised the advancement of Arab Americans, noting an article profiling Arab Americans in the national magazine Parade:

"To me, there is no better news than I saw when I picked up Parade magazine last week. There is nothing aimed more at America's mainstream than Parade. It is no minor achievement to see last week's cover story by Casey Kasem devoted to Arab Americans with pictures of George Mitchell and Donna Shalala...

"The fact is, the contributions of Arab Americans to this culture bave been ignored. The stereotypes yon see in movies bave been shameful. And the fact that we see this kind of corrective in Parade means that maybe — just maybe — the 3 million Americans of Arab descent will be portrayed with the complexity you deserve."

And the vice president later added: "As I read Casey Kasem's article, I was impressed by one remark of Farouk Al Baz, the geologist who worked on Apollo missions, and now directs Boston University's Ceotre for Remote Sensing. 'Racism originates from fear of the unknown or lack of knowledge and is usually alleviated by information,' he said. That is a remark at once realistic and optimistic. I share his confidence that knowledge is a tool of brotherhood — and sisterhood.

"The Arab American Institute has worked to dispel ignorance. You've worked at home and you've worked abroad. I hope 1994 sees us in a partnership for peace, working in this country and abroad, working to bring people closer — hut always working together."

Mr. Gore also acknowledged the fact that Arab Americans are not a single-issue constituency. And again, like Prof. Sharabi, while noting with pride the fact that the Clinton administration had appointed Arab Americans Donna Sbalala and Greg Simon as his own domestic policy advisers, Mr. Gore noted that "that is not enough" and pledged that the administration world do more.

In her keynote address at the conference's Gala Awards Banquet, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Sbalala spoke eloquently and proudly of her Arab ancestry:

"How important it is tbat we keep our heritage, that our children really understand that they really are Arah Americans. For me, it bas made all the difference in the world... I am proud tonight to be standing before all of you as a Lebanese American who has made it."

She also praised the work of the Arab American community, saying:

"My father dreamed of and worked for tbe day when a room like this would be filled with Arab Americans who were leaders in every aspect of American life and that is the point I would like to make tonight. As a community, our power increases in every aspect of American life."

Secretary Shalala added: "If there is anytbing that this administration believes, it is that you don't have to have cookie cutter programmes. That it is possible to Arab Americans to keep their heritage, keep special kinds of commitments to their community and simultaneously participate in the wide range of programmes available to everyone. It is in tryiog to make our programmes more sensitive to the Arab American community that all of us will be challenged in the years ahead. I believe that the president, and you heard from the vice president today, are more interested in sensitive programmes. I certainly believe that so many members of Congress wbo are Arab Americans themselves or who have communities they are responsive to are beginning to understand that this country is only strong when it builds on the heritage of so many of our population."

Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown also spoke of the leadership role played by Arah Americans in bringing issues before the Democratic Party in this country. He spoke of the "turmoil and trauma" the community had endured during its work and how that work represented "not only tbe interests of Arab Americans, but really all Americans who have sought to be listened to, respected, and for too long had been shut out."

Mr. Brown also praised the work of Arab Americans had done in advancing their agenda. "I want to congratulate your diligence," he said. "I want to congratulate you for your tenacity. I want to congratulate you for your commitment to constructive change not only in America but all around the world."

This level reception and recognition of Arab Americans and the success they have had in politics should not be overlooked. That the administration sent this message to Arah Americans is clear and unequivocal. Democratic Party Chairman David Wilhelm (who managed President Clinton's 1992 campaign) said it best:

"I am truly glad that you are going to be greeted and briefed by Vice President Al Gore, Donna Shalala, Ron Brown. If there could ever be a statement about the complete inclusion of the Arab American community, I think that is it."

But Mr. Wilhelm went two steps further. In launcbing the Arab American Advisory Council to the Democratic National Committee (DNC), he created the first ever official link between Arab Americans and that party. This council will provide Arab Americans not only with direct access to the party, but also with a vehicle through wbich Arab Americans can be mobilised around issues affecting this administration.

The creation of this council comes as recognition of the organisational role Arab Americans played in supporting the Clinton campaign and in organising grass roots lobbying support to lobby for the president's bndget proposal in 1993.

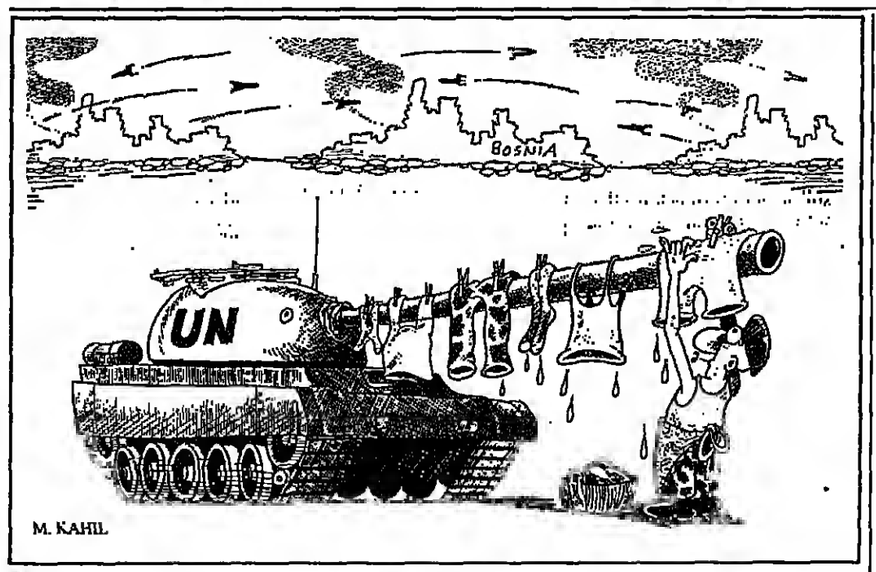
The White House and DNC are now organising a special White House briefing and meetings for members of the Arab American Democratic Advisory Council to mobilise the community in support of the president's health care programme. Similarly, secretaries Shalala and Brown have agreed to establish liaisons with Arab American social service providers and Arab American businessmen to assist the community in presenting its concerns to the administration.

But DNC Chairman Wilhelm has taken another step, and that is to facilitate meetings between the Arab American Democratic leadership and tlle White House personnel office to assist the community in securing more appointments in the administration. And this speaks directly to Prof. Sharabi's central concern.

Arab Americans have earned the respect and recognition they are receiving. This administration has responded as no other bas before in providing access and recognition. What must now happen is that Arab Americans must follow up on these opportunities and secure positions in government thar match their skills, their interests and their experience.

This new cballenge is a two-way street. Arab Americans must continue to press the administration to open its doors, but Arab Americans must accept the challenge of seeking out, in the phrase President Kennedy used; their "best and brightest." They must see government service as a desirable commitment and they must recognise that their best service to their country and their community can be realised through service in the broad range of fields in which they bave developed expertise.

As the administration's consistent message to the leadership conference shows, Arab Americans are no longer on the outside, looking in. But, now that they are inside, they must work to make certain to utilise that position for the joint benefit of the community and the country as a whole. The progress achieved over the last twenty years suggests that our community has the dedication, determination and imagination to do just that.



M. KAHIL

Key questions at heart of U.N.

By Adrian Hamilton

THE latest ontrage in Sarajevo has hrought back with a vengeance all the old questions of just what the United Nations should be doing and, indeed, wbether, it should be in the former Yugoslavia at all. They are questions which the U.N. and its secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, are proving painfully weak at answering. And who could blame them?

It is all very well for U.N. commanders on the ground, Western reporters in the shelters or local spokesmen on the airwaves to demand an immediate U.N. response. It would be immensely satisfying to see the Serbian gunners blown off the mountainsides by some well aimed air strikes.

But tbe U.N. is not in Bosnia as an interventionist force, any more than it is that in Somalia. It is there to provide aid and supplies to civilians caught out by war. That means getting on with the warring parties, not becoming party to the conflict. If the West wants to intervene — and heaven knows how different it might all have been if it bad — then it needs to do so under its own national or NATO flag, not the banner of an organisation dedicated to peace aod goodwill among men.

Of course, it is not as easy as that. The mere act of bandaging the wounded and feeding the hungry in a civil war is to participate in it. As Lord Owen and even the defence secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, are beginning to sense, humanitarian telief in the Bosnian context may simply have served tn prolong the agony and increase tbe number of those killed.

Nor can the U.N. help but see its own prestige put at stake in such wars. For lack of anyone else, the world has looked to the U.N. to serve as policemao, doctor and priest. The fact that it lacks a military force of its own or the administrative baek-up to fulfill these roles has not stopped Western politicians from sliding their problems over to it.

No wonder Bnutros-Ghali feels frustrated. He has repeatedly tried to lay out what the U.N. needs if it is to carry out this task — more resources, an armed wing of its own and a properly structure headquarters — and has repeatedly found that when push comes to shove, he hasn't the backing.

And yet one has a terrible suspicion that he has been too enthusiastic a party to his own fate. The doubts that keep bubbling up about Boutros-Ghali concern less his handling of outside governments than his treatment of his own organisation.

His office bas been punctuated by a series of bad-tempered resignations and sackings, including, only last month, the resignation of Melissa Wells, the highest-ranking American in the organisation.

Senior staff, put on one-year reviewable contracts, have openly talked of a reign of terror while Boutros-Ghali has moved to hreak, not only the position of individuals, but the independence of the subsidiary organisations, such as those dealing with the children (UNICEF), education and culrure (UNESCO) and refugees (UNHCR).

The pain which this causes, say supporters of the secretary general, is crucial if the U.N. is to become an effective organisation capahle of taking on the tasks being imposed upon it, never mind roofing out the inefficiency and downright corruption for whicb the U.S. has long belaboured it.

But does the world necessarily want the U.N. to develop along these lines? Boutros-Ghali certainly does. A natural empire builder, he is almost too eager to rush into every conflict.

Yet, part of the virtue of the U.N. — for all its ramshackle nature — has been that it contains within itself a balance between all countries, big and small, and has done more good by the boring work of refugee relief, Third World development and education than ever it did by the grander task of peacemaking.

In emphasising the latter, the secretary general is playing to a situation that seemed necessary and exciting at a time when post-cold war bopes were high and America could effectively run the Security Council with the cooperation of a needy Russia and the passivity of an isolated China.

This no longer applies. Russia and China are showing their independence in the Security Council. Conditions in the world are proving far too intractable to respond to the mere sight of the blue beret coming round the corner.

As the demands for action build up after the recent murder of civilians in Sarajevo market, the U.N. is going to be left, once again, in the middle of a hopeless muddle of Western policy. If that is the case, then the question has to be asked whether, for its own good, the U.N. should not be seeking to redefine its role more modestly and whether its secretary general is the right man to see that it does — The Observer.

'Poverty' drives aborigines to Christianity

By Anis Ahmad
Reuter

BHATPARA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh's sole surviving aboriginal group is being fast converted to Christianity and its leaders accuse the church of tempting the people with jobs and promises of the good life.

At least 40 per cent of the 150,000 Santals in northern Bangladesh had been converted by one or other of the five Catholic missions and their 200 missionaries, Santal leader Ganesh Sharen told Reuters.

"They are victims of poverty and fall prey easily to the chnrch," said Mr. Ganesh, a college teacher and one of the few Santal University graduates.

Mr. Ganesh said the pagan Santals, many of whom have migrated to neighbouring India, had suffered long years of neglect and humiliation in Bangladesh but they had their own distinct identity which should be preserved.

"We are the most peaceful race in this country," said Mr. Ganesh. "Yet the government has always ignored us."

The Saotali-speaking Santals had no schools, no health care and no sanitation and were deserting their traditions for the mission villages where education and health care were provided, Mr. Ganesh said.

The Santals' life revolves around their love of hunting — both for animals and women. They eat rats and pigs and drink a lot of a local brew called chuani. They are divided into 10 or more clans and use any occasion sueh as a full moon or completed rice harvest for singing and dancing.

If a boy can track down a girl and paint a red mark on her forehead with a special herbal paste, she is his for life. "As long as the girl has attained puberty the boy has established his right over the girl and they will marry," Mr. Ganesh explained of the Santals' courting rituals.

"Sometimes the boys compete in hunting, archery and other physical feats to convince a girl. This combines tradition and chivalry."

There are five Catholic missions working in Dinajpur and neighbouring districts of northern Bangladesh. Their newly set-up villages include Bhatpara 470 km north of Dhaka, where they have opened schools and provided food, shelter and jobs.

Emanuel and Selina Murmu said they made the right decision to convert to Christianity and move to Bhatpara, although the reasons they give do not run to the love of God.

"Earlier we were foolish," Selina said. "What is tradition or religion? To me having a full belly and feeling contented is religion."

Santal brothers Mangal and Marius Tudu were also happy with their new life. "Now we have wells, latrines and cropland — all provided by the missions. What more could we expect?" said Mangal.

Muslim groups have in the past staged protests against Christian missions but the government has done nothing to curb their activities.

"We are so poor and helpless that most of the half-fed Santals swallow the bait (from missionaries)," Mr. Ganesh said.

Father Vigano, head of the Dinajpur mission, denied charges of tempting the poor with promises of food and a better life.

"The missionaries do nothing wrong," he said. "We bring (the Santals) help and comfort and accept to our religion those who want to embrace it themselves."

Mr. Ganesh said he had resisted the temptation of converting for one simple reason. "I will be the last person to see that the aborigines continue to live the way they should."

NATO discusses action in Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

battlefield losses to the Muslims in central Bosnia.

He resigned at a meeting of the Herzeg-Bosna assembly. No replacement was named immediately, but one likely choice was former Bosnian Premier Mile Akmadzic.

With the international community again considering air strikes against Bosnian Serbs, a new round of peace talks scheduled for Thursday in Geneva is taking on added importance.

LETTERS

The right thing to do

To the Editor:

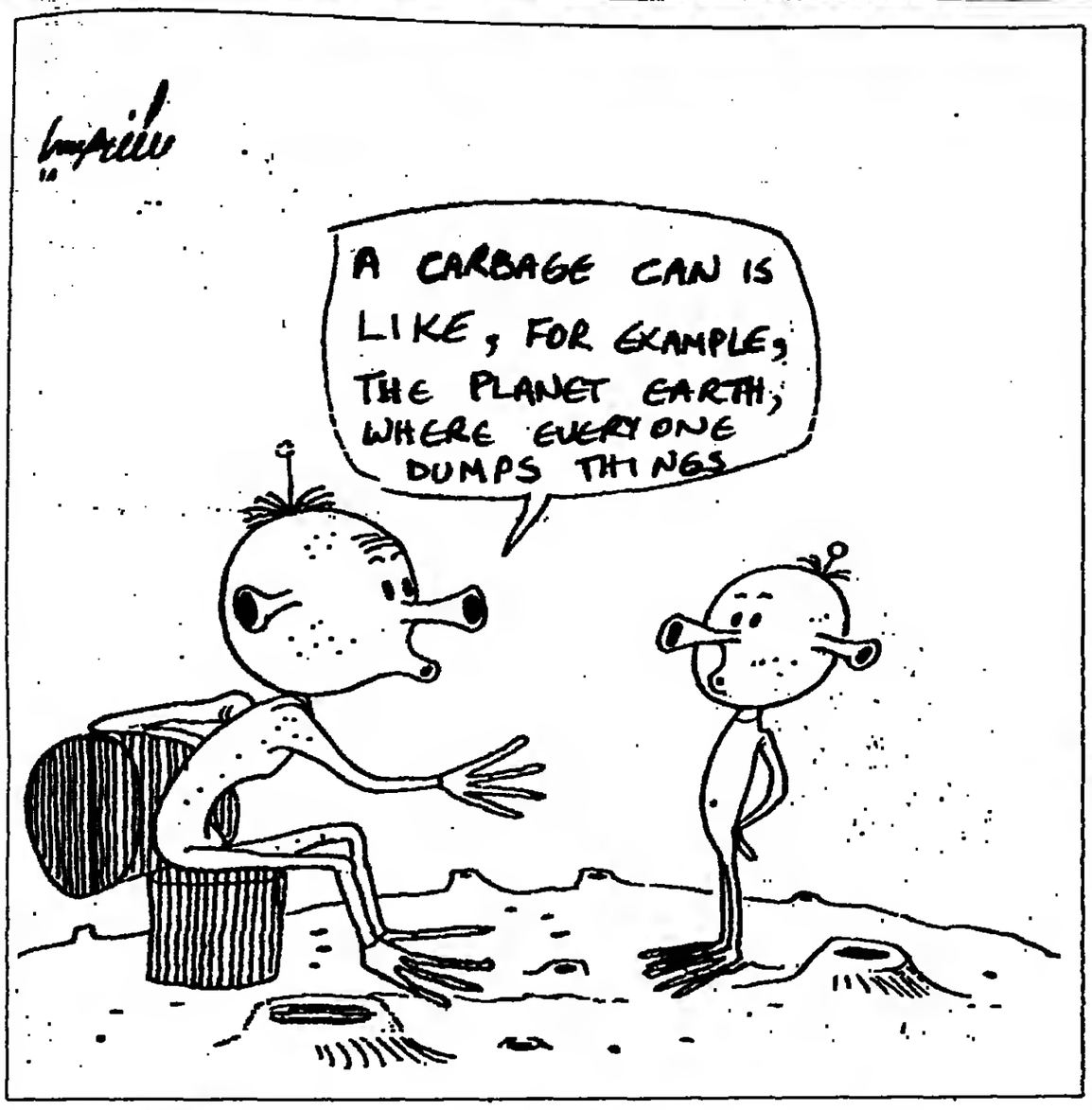
I WATCHED this week a programme called Terror in Sarajevo on the CNN breaking news. Altbough the programme was very well documented and substantiated by numbers and figures, yet tbere were some missing points, especially the role of Islamic countries in this carnage. All the leaders and prime ministers of the West were voicing their views on this issue except the Islamic World although those wbo are being killed are Muslims, a fact admitted by all the world even the United States.

On the other band it seems sad that no other country beside Jordan managed to send troops to help the existing U.N. forces. If Islam is the motive behind the war then all Islamic countries should have the courage to send their troops as well. It would be formidable if the planes of the Arab World would send rescue missions and to supply the innocent people with food instead of allowing the Western powers to look and feel sorry for those people. Being sorry will not give those people their lost ones back. Giving them hope for the future by salvaging what can be salvaged instead of sitting and doing nothing is a more appropriate and genuine step to be taken by the Arab governments.

To allow the West to defend the Muslims instead of the Arab World who are lamenting for this tragedy is a mockery to all Muslims that will never be forgotten.

Ret. Col. Nasser Mirza,
P.O. Box: 926500,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Forgive us our eco-trespasses

By Bryan Appleyard

DO YOU believe in global warming? How alarmed are you about the thinning of the ozone layer? Does acid rain keep you awake at night? And does a decline in biodiversity fill you with fear for the world your grandchildren will inherit?

The chances are that you are, to some extent, worried about all of these things. Surveys seem to show that 80-90 per cent of the populations of all developed countries profess themselves concerned or very concerned about these big, global, environmental threats. Anxiety about what scientific and industrial civilisation is doing to the planet is one of the defining attributes of our age. The bland, technological optimism of the Fifties has given way to a condition of apocalyptic fear and suspicion. Once people might have coughed and mildly protested about a smoky car exhaust or belching chimney; now, smitten with visions of global heat death, they call Greenpeace or Friends of the Earth.

This is understandable. Powerful forces — scientists, lobby groups and politicians — have put their authority behind the conviction that the Earth is a limited system that can only take so much and we are perilously close to the limit.

But scientists, lobby groups and politicians put their authority behind many things. Usually they are ignored, laughed at, or, if they are lucky, taken seriously for a day or two. When it comes to the environment, however, everybody listens. Each new threat becomes another layer of long-term anxiety, a further intensification of our guilt at the despoliation of nature. This week, of BBC 1's Panorama, it was fear of the carcinogenic effects of electromagnetic fields; next week it will be something else. Whatever the issue, overwhelmingly it is clear that we want, or need, to believe in our own ecological criminality.

The radically sceptical response to this is simple. As the writer Matt Ridley and others have been pointing out, the actual science behind the big environmental anxieties is nothing like as clear-cut as people tend to think.

First, global warming is still no more than a hypothesis. There is no conclusive empirical evidence, and what evidence there is remains stubbornly ambiguous. Recently published satellite findings, for example, seem to indicate there has been no warming at all. And, even at the level of theory, there may be fundamental flaws — the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may already be absorbing all the radiation that can be absorbed, so the emission of more carbon dioxide will make no difference.

Second, the dying northern forests are a more complex phenomenon than previously thought and the initial impulse to put all the blame on acid rain caused by power station emissions has proved difficult to sustain.

Third, although the thinning of the ozone layer is well established and the implication of chlorine in this process is generally accepted, the real impact has been exaggerated. You will still be exposed to more ultra-violet on a Seychelles beach than in Antarctica. Sane scientists know that the ozone scare has got out of hand, but have tended to keep quiet on the basis that concern is better than complacency.

> Imagine that tomorrow it was conclusively shown that global warming was a hopelessly flawed theory and/or that acid rain and the thinning of the ozone layer were nothing to worry about. Imagine, in short, that the scientific basis behind environmentalism collapsed. Would environmentalism itself collapse?

The points to the best general reason for scepticism about environmental claims. The environment has proved a bonanza for science. Atmospheric chemistry, once a scientific backwater, is now one of the sexiest and richest research fields. Environmental anxieties are big money, drawing out private, corporate and government funds. Many people and institutions have good, financial reasons for ensuring that you are scared. And all of this is combined with the dreadful paraphernalia of ecological political correctness. In the United States it has seriously been suggested that any evidence that tends to disprove the global anxiety theories should be suppressed. We know we are right, say these hard eco-freaks, therefore you must be wrong.

The complete sceptic might conclude from all this that the whole thing is an absurd conspiracy, fed by scientific greed, media hysteria and Stalinist political correctness. Environmentalists themselves repeatedly play into the hands of the sceptics by making wild forecasts that rapidly prove to be wrong. The prediction that the burning of the Kuwaiti oil wells by the Iraqis would destabilise the Indian monsoon was the most flagrant recent example.

Dismissing or lampooning the entire phenomenon on this basis is easy and fun, but wrong. Certainly there are elements of conspiracy, as well as greed, hysteria and Stalinism; and certainly the difficulty of obtaining conclusive empirical evidence is proving an increasing embarrassment to the environmentalists. But the theories alone have proved powerful enough to convince not only fanatics but also stable, wise and intelligent people. And, after all, it is quite clear that the modern pace of industrialisation is doing something big and unprecedented to the planet, so it is only reasonable to attempt to assess the seriousness of the side-effects.

But try this thought experiment. Imagine that tomorrow it was conclusively shown that global warming was a hopelessly flawed theory and/or that acid rain and the thinning of the ozone layer were nothing to worry about. Imagine, in short, that the scientific basis behind environmentalism collapsed. Would environmentalism itself collapse?

The answer, I think, is no. For our need and willingness to believe in the basic message of environmentalism is more than merely scientific. This is because the word "environment" has expanded to include far more than the condition of the atmosphere or the state of our woodlands. It has become a statement about our relationship with nature and about a new and humbler perception of the limits of our powers.

In the Fifties, it was widely assumed that technology would provide an infinite number of mechanical solutions. Nuclear power would provide cheap energy, pesticides would increase food supply to meet population demands, and drugs would cure disease. All of these assumptions turned out to be too simple-minded.

The nuclear project failed and pesticides had unpredictable and catastrophic side-effects. Nature was too complex. For a time medicine survived untainted, but now Aids and the continuing intractability of the processes of human decay and disease have undermined its heroic, eternally hopeful place in the world.

In the Sixties, the idea of technology as more of a threat than a promise began to enter the popular imagination. This was intensified by the fact that, in spite of its obvious failures, technology was continuing to deliver economic growth. However mistrustful people might become of the fruits of science, it was still an unstoppable force that would transform the world whether we liked it or not.

Environmentalism filled the psychological vacuum created by the twin feelings of impotence and mistrust. It gave people something to do and a way of thinking that would express their disappointment and fear. At its worst it emerged as sanctimoniously radical politics; at its best it freed people of the dangerous illusion that they could do what they liked.

Now it is part of life. Children lecture their parents from the high moral ground of an eco-sensitivity they have acquired at school; politicians have turned a uniform shade of green; soaps and deodorants can barely be sold without some kind of environmental endorsement; I have been harangued by a child, watched by an approving mother, for filling my car with leaded petrol.

All of this is strange and much of it is silly. A good deal of it — such as my encounter at the garage or Anita Roddick's incantations over her Body Shop products — is intolerably priggish and meddlesome. But it cannot be dismissed and it is not going to go away for the simple reason that the fear and impotence that inspire it are not going to go away.

"A central characteristic of modern complex societies like ours," writes Robin Grove-White of Lancaster University, "is the way in which we have become more and more embedded as societies in massive technological and institutional commitments without any real processes of public decision."

In other words: however much we may argue, vote or demonstrate, the feeling is that a big, international, inhuman logic will have its way with us whether we like it or not. This is as true of global electronic superhighways as it is of railways in the back gardens of previously solid Tory voters. Always there is a higher logic that mere human intelligence seems incapable of stopping or refuting. The natural and virtuous demands of locality, continuity or peace cannot be allowed to inhibit its progress.

This, far more than atmospheric chemistry or eco-friendly bubble baths, is what environmentalism is all about, and this, whatever the gyrations of the scientists, is what will keep it alive — The Independent.

Has Hayek said too much?

By Mitya New
Reuter

ZURICH — When Hayek speaks Switzerland listens.

And no wonder. Nicolas Hayek is widely seen as the father of the popular plastic Swatch, which has become a household name around the globe and brought the prestigious Swiss watch industry back from the brink of extinction.

But recently people have begun to wonder whether the unconventional Hayek, who has won a reputation as the enfant terrible of Swiss industry for his barbed remarks about staid business practices, has perhaps said too much.

Hayek and his Societe Suisse Microelectronique et d'Horologerie (SMH) have kept the public on tenterhooks for more than a year with repeated promises of details of his plans for a revolutionary, two-seater ecological city car, but deadlines have come and gone.

Since German car maker Volkswagen pulled out of a joint venture with SMH at the beginning of last year, Hayek has said in chronological order that he had found a new partner, was negotiating with two partners, had chosen one of the two and that he would announce the partner's name by the end of 1993.

That deadline passed without a word and Hayek sparked a fresh wave of speculation with comments last month that a production agreement with a partner would be signed in 1994.

Hayek's unreliability would not be such a problem if it were not for the recent volatility of SMH shares on Swiss bourses.

Analysts, who for years were eating out of the hand of the charismatic Lebanese-born Hayek, now talk increasingly of the man's credibility problem and wonder whether his car will ever grace the roads.

"His failure to meet deadlines on the name of the car's partner is costing him a lot of goodwill," said one analyst, who asked not to be named.

To tarnish the reputation further Volkswagen chief executive Ferdinand Piech in a recent interview in the Swiss weekly Sonntagszeitung cutlingly belittled the Swatch car:

"We don't make watches, perhaps Hayek shouldn't build cars."

Other analysts suggest Hayek may be using the euphoria his car project has generated since it was launched in 1990 to bolster the volatile SMH share price whenever it slumps with promises of imminent announcements of a deal.

Somewhat disingenuously for a man who excels in consumer goods marketing, Hayek claims he completely underestimated the extent to which the public hangs on his every utterance.

"I never believed the idea would take such a hold when I first spoke about it (in 1990). I had expected to announce I was planning the car and then to be left alone for at least seven years, which is normally the amount of time you need to develop a new car," Hayek told Reuters in an interview last year.

Despite the doubts Hayek remains sure of his mission to provide the world with an ecological solution to its need for mobility.

"It is quite clear that if we continue with cars at the present rate, and the Indians and Chinese and Russians demand the same degree of mobility, that we have then we will soon run out of oxygen on the earth," he said.

He is also convinced that his marketing formula for Swatch, which has now sold well over 100 million units, will ensure his car sweeps the globe.

The marketing strategy is based on providing consumers who buy products with a clear message. The message behind Swatch is that it is a product of high quality, is made in a Western industrial country, costs little to buy, is unconventional and can be sold all over the world.

The car, which Hayek has already said will cost no more than 15,000 swiss francs ($10,000), will be sold with the same message.

For Hayek the message is crucial.

"People don't understand the importance of messages any more. You must never change the message of a product," he said.

Companies with quality products that try to gain market share by offering low-price versions are confusing the message they give the buyer and thus hurting their sales potential, Hayek argues.

"How would you react if Rolls Royce said it was making a small and cheap version of the Rolls Royce for 12,000 marks ($7,000)?" he said.

"Four or five years ago I had an offer (which I refused) of $1 billion for the name Swatch, an offer under which we would have been allowed to keep the name for our watches and they would use it for a range of consumer products."

Despite the doubts over the car, analysts are well aware of the importance of Hayek as the main marketing force behind Swatch products. As he approaches his 66th birthday they wonder what will happen post-Hayek.

As always, the loquacious Hayek has the answer.

"Did you ever hear of Picasso retiring, did you ever hear of Mozart retiring? I will die on my feet, but don't forget I have a son who is much better than I am... (but don't want to fix one of my sons as my successor. The successor will be the person best qualified for the job."

Who is heir to Zapata? Mexico rebels spark debate

By Martin Langfield
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — An armed uprising by self-styled "Zapatista" mayan peasants in southern Mexico has raised the question: Who is the true political heir to the moustachioed revolutionary hero Emiliano Zapata?

The original Zapata, known for his battle cry of *tierra y libertad* (land and freedom), was a poor peasant from the central state of Morelos, born in 1877, who rose up against landowners to demand the return of lands seized from the poor.

During the Mexican revolution, which began in 1910, he became known as the "leader of the south," in contrast to equally famed rebel leader Pancho Villa, who held sway in the north of the country.

The question of who may use his name is more than just an academic nicety. In a country where claims of revolutionary legitimacy are part of every politician's rhetoric, the rebels' assumption of the Zapata name has led to a flurry of objections and counterclaims.

Does the charismatic rebel leader sub-commander Marcos, who led the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) in its new year takeover of the colonial town of San Cristobal de Las Casas in Chiapas state, fit the bill?

Hardly, the Mexican government says.

In the first days of the rebellion, during which more than 100 people died, the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said the rebels were nothing but "lawbreakers" led by "professionals of violence" who in any case probably weren't even Mexicans but mercenaries from Central America.

An artist's impression of Marcos released by the government showed him to be light-skinned, green-eyed — and distinctly lacking a moustache, Zapata-style or otherwise.

That tack changed when former Foreign Minister Manuel Camacho Solis, a skilled conciliator, was named by Salinas to try to negotiate an end to the uprising.

Camacho recognised the Zapatistas as a representative force with legitimate grievances, brokered an end to the shooting and said he would hold peace with the rebels.

But even so, he could not quite bring himself to utter the word, "Zapatistas" when referring to the rebels.

"I shall refer to you by your initials, the EZLN," Camacho said in a public statement to the rebels last month — and so far, he has done just that and no more.

If Marcos does not fit the bill, how about the fully moustachioed Salinas, who as Mexican president represents the continuing 65-year hold on power of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) that emerged from the revolution?

Not if you ask the rebels, whose initial statement of demands demanded the overthrow of "the dictatorship under which we suffer" and its "highest and illegitimate chief, Carlos Salinas de Gortari."

The rebels don't claim to be carbon-copies of Zapata either.

Their so far unspecific plans for land reform "are perhaps different from what Zapata said, that each peasant should be given a plot of land. ...We see now that each giving out the land like that, you can run out of land," a member of the rebels' clandestine Indigenous Revolutionary Committee leadership said in an interview in La Jornada newspaper.

"But land still has to pass into the hands of the people."

The PRI candidate to succeed Salinas in August elections, Luis Donaldo Colosio, has also been trying to attract some of the luster of Zapata's memory to his campaign, which has been largely overshadowed by the uprising in Chiapas.

Last week Colosio, who sports a moustache in the Salinas fashion, travelling to Zapata's birthplace, Anenecuilco, met three of Zapata's children and echoed Zapata's battle cry.

"The demand for "land and freedom" is still today a demand for justice," he said, pledging investment and an end to corruption in the agricultural sector.

One of Zapata's children, Mateo, white-haired and using a walking stick but sporting a proud, droopy moustache like his father's, gave contradictory answers when asked if he supported the rebels, saying at one point, "it is just to take up arms" and at another, "I would use arms only to sell them."

The question of who may best claim Zapata's inheritance seems equally confused.

Often forgotten in the debate is the fate that Zapata himself met in 1919 at the hands of his own revolutionary colleagues: He was lured to a meeting with men loyal to rival leader Venustiano Carranza and shot to death in cold blood.

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Japan unveils big economic stimulus

TOKYO (R) — Japan unveiled its biggest economic stimulus package Tuesday but it hardly cleared away Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's woes at home or in Washington.

Instead, working out the long-awaited package dented his popularity, underlined the fragile nature of his coalition, and resulted in tax cuts which may not satisfy U.S. President Bill Clinton when the two leaders meet Friday.

And, a last-minute compromise on tax reform left unanswered one key question — whether to introduce a new, higher tax to offset a revenue shortage stemming from the tax cuts.

"What they've done is to postpone the dispute," said Takeshi Sasaki, a University of Tokyo political scientist. "The tax issue could well be a focus of the next election."

The tax deal capped five days of political chaos sparked by Mr. Hosokawa's announcement early Thursday of a plan to cut income and other taxes by six trillion yen ($55.5 billion) and introduce a seven per cent "welfare" tax three years later.

The announcement prompted the Socialists, biggest member of the coalition, to threaten a walkout and angered others in the coalition to complain they were not kept well-informed.

Mr. Hosokawa withdrew his plan and, on Tuesday, after days of weary baggling, the coalition agreed on a compromise allowing the government to go ahead with the tax cuts and to postpone till later this year a decision on future tax hikes.

That cleared the way for the mamoth 15.25 trillion yen ($141 billion) stimulus pakcage.

Mr. Hosokawa said he hoped Japan's economy would recover early in 1994/95, chief cabinet secretary Masayoshi Takemura said.

"The 15 trillion yen package was the utmost we could do and it was the biggest scale ever. Income tax cuts that were announced were also the largest in the post-war period," he told a news conference.

Businessmen also welcomed the package. "I think it will give momentum to the recovery in the Japanese economy and will help improve the U.S.-Japan relationship," said Takeshi Nagano, chairman of the Japan federation of Employers' Associations.

But some economists said the package would do little more than support existing private sector forecasts for economic growth in the year to end-March 1995, some economists said.

"The tax cuts will have a positive effect, but the question is, how much will people actually spend," said Soichi Enkyo, senior economist at the Bank of Tokyo Ltd. "The package will support (an eventual) recovery but will not lead it."

Economic policymakers said earlier Tuesday they were discussing a GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate target of 2-2.5 per cent for 1994/95. Private economists said that level would be tough to achieve.

Many Japanese think-tanks had already factored in the cuts of five to six trillion yen and still come up with growth forecasts of around 0.5 per cent of GDP in fiscal 1994/95.

Geoffrey Barker, chief economist at Baring Securities Japan, was more upbeat. "I'm vaguely positive. Whatever anyone says about the coalition, they keep onpulling the rabbit out of the hat."

"The impact of the package is cumulative. It's coming on top of three other packages, when interest rates are very low and there have been a couple of years to work through stock adjustments. I think it's enough to tip the balance (toward recovery)," he said.

How far the package would go toward pleasing the United States was also in doubt.

Washington wants Japan to boost its economy in the belief it wil increase Japanese demand for imports and help reduce the country's huge trade surplus.

"I think the U.S. will approve of the Japanese government's efforts to boost domestic demand," Mr. Takemura said.

Some officials here has hoped that if Mr. Hosokawa took a stimulative package with hefty tax cuts to Washington, it might help offset U.S. ire at a lack of progress in market access talks under an economic framework pact signed in July 1993.

The pact's aim is to cut Japan's huge trade surplus and improve access to specific market sectors.

The key stumbling block to agreements is U.S. insistence a range of indicators be used to measure progress in cracking open Japan's car market, government procurement contracts and insurance industry. Tokyo says that approach is managed trade and anathema to free-market economics.

The United States has threatened "other options" in the talks remain deadlocked. Some read that as a trade sanction threat, others fear ther U.S. may turn to currency manipulation to cut Japan's surplus.

"It sounds to me as if the U.S. is really starting to go down the retaliatory path," Merrill Lynch's Morgan said.

Britain cuts interest rates to lowest since 1972

LONDON (R) — Britain Tuesday shaved its interest rates to the lowest since 1972, acting to maintain robust economic recovery and sweetening a forthcoming raft of tax increases.

The Bank of England signalled the cut, of 0.25 of a percentage point to 5.25 per cent, in its early morning money market operations. The first British rate cut since Nov. 23 was swiftly passed on to customers by commercial banks.

The cut was interpreted positively by the stock market which gave the economic recovery a vote of confidence.

British shares, which had already been recovering strongly after Monday's sharp fall prompted by Friday's rise in U.S. interest rates, extended a rally to 51.4 points on the FTSE index of 100 leading shares to 3.470.5 points.

The British rate cut was in sharp contrast to the U.S. Federal Reserve's quarter-point rise in U.S. rates last week that sparked a worldwide share price slide. The U.S. move was intended to head off any build up of inflationary pressure.

"I have concluded that interest rates can be reduced modestly (in Britain) without putting at risk the inflation target," Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke said.

"Inflation has been lower than expected. Looking ahead inflationary pressures appear subdued," he said. Mr. Clarke also cited exchange-rate stability and falls in house prices.

The interest-rate cut was also welcomed by employers groups, opposition politicians and unions although some economists said they had expected a cut to sweeten the uncomfortable tax rises that are due to come into effect in April.

Nick Parsons, chief economist at CIBC Bank, said he believed the rate cut was justified by the inflation rate.

Pakistan taxes its wealthy landowners

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government has passed a law that imposes taxes for the first time on the country's rich landowners.

Though the tax is small, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other financial institutions saw the measure as a key test of whether Ms. Bhutto's government was serious about economic reform.

The IMF wanted to see the new tax in place before deciding later this month whether to approve $1.3 billion in fresh loans to Pakistan.

"The IMF should be satisfied," said parliamentary secretary Shah Mahmoud Qureshi after the measure passed parliament Monday night by a vote of 72 to 45.

Pakistan's economy and its political system are dominated by wealthy landowners, such as Ms. Bhutto, and they have traditionally exempted themselves from taxes.

Even the largest landowner will not pay more than 3,000 rupees ($100) a year, but the IMF says the new law is the first step toward establishing a more equitable tax system to make everyone pay taxes.

Pakistan is one of the world's poorest countries. The government is chronically short of money and the country has a long history of economic mismanagement.

Only 1 million of Pakistan's 125 million people pay taxes and government officials concede no one has ever been prosecuted for tax evasion.

Working hours reduced to 44 hours in China

BEIJING (R) — China Monday gave state workers a 44-hour week, down from their usual 48, in essence allowing them Saturday afternoon off for the first time since the communist takeover of 1949.

The reform, decreed by the State Council and reported by the official Xinhua News Agency, follows last month's adoption of China's first nationwide minimum-wage standards.

"Workers in Chinese government organs, institutions, enterprises and other organisations will work eight hours a day and 44 hours a week from March 1," Xinhua said. Work units with special problems have until May 1 to adopt the new hours.

The change means most workers will punch out at noon on Saturday instead of 5 p.m. Hours can be extended or shortened in the face of "special conditions or urgent tasks" not specified in the cabinet decree.

Even at 44 hours, or five-and-a-half days, China's official work week is one of the world's longest, a relic of four decades of orthodox socialist labour management that gauged national prestige on steady production growth.

Most industrialised countries have cut their work weeks to 40 hours or less, seeking to trim labour costs without layoffs in an era of slack industrial demand.

German jobless tops four million

BONN (R) — Unemployment in Germany climbed above four million in January, setting a post-war record and moving closer to the dramatic levels last seen during the Weimar Republic which ushered in the Nazi dictatorship.

The Federal Labour Office reported Tuesday that the combined unadjusted jobless total in east and west Germany was 4.03 million, comprising 2.74 million in the west and 1.29 million in the former communist east.

This was up from the December total of 2.69 million.

In view of the mounting jobless figures, politicians and commentators have been drawing increasingly frequent parallels in recent weeks to the five million unemployment level in the 1930s Weimar Republic that helped bring Adolf Hitler to power.

The "Weimar syndrome" still haunts German politicians even though historians argue that democracy is deeply routed here and unlikely to be shaken by high unemployment.

"The west German figure of more than 2.736 million unemployed is, in absolute terms, the highest since records began," the Nuremberg-based labour office said in a statement.

The west German unemployment rate rose to 8.8 per cent of the workforce from 8.1 per cent in December.

This was the highest post-war rate since the 10.6 per cent reported in January 1985, but the workforce was much smaller then. Even higher rates were recorded in the 1950s when west Germany was being rebuilt from the rubble of World War II.

The jobless rate in east Germany was 17 per cent compared with 15.4 per cent in December.

The labour office said the January increase throughout the country was due mainly to the continued effects of west Germany's worst post-war recession, normal seasonal factors, structural adjustments in industry and a reduction in the number of people onjob-creation programmes in east Germany.

"We should not conclude from this that the negative tendencies are getting worse," labour office president Bernhard Jagoda said in a statement.

January is traditionally a bad month for unemployment as many redundancy notices take effect from the end of the previous quarter and winter weather can hamper work in the construction industry.

The DAG white-collar union said four million unemployed were "an alarm signal" for German society.

The opposition Social Democrats said the figures were a disaster which showed Chancellor Helmut Kohl's claim that the recession was over was wishful thinking in an election year.

There will be 19 elections in Germany this year, culminating in federal elections in October.

NASA budget cut by $251m

WASHINGTON (R) — Even as shuttle astronauts struggled with a stubborn satellite Monday, NASA announced a $251 million cut in next year's budget and $281 million less for the space shuttle programme.

But President Bill Clinton said this would not undermine construction of the redesigned international space station, which accounts for $2.1 billion in the new budget.

"This is not a pet project," Mr. Clinton said as he toured Johnson Space Centre in Houston, where scientists communicate with space shuttle astronauts. "This is a major part of America's high-technology future."

The Clinton administration's 1995 budget for the space agency is $14.3 billion — about $251 million less than the previous year — with increases for new technology, aeronautics, computers and global warming research.

But human space flight, which captured the U.S. imagination in the early days of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), faces the deepest cuts as the Clinton administration focuses on "meaningful science and technology that will make a difference in people's lives."

It was the first decrease in NASA's overall budget in 22 years.

Mr. Clinton sought to discount the impact of the spending cuts, saying they would be offset by savings from joint space ventures with Russia and other countries.

"So we think we can do the space station on the budget that I've recommended, but it is important that Congress not cut it because we didn't pad the budget," Mr. Clinton said.

Congress must approve Mr. Clinton's budget and key legislators have already hinted they will look for more than $1 billion in further cuts from NASA.

NASA officials had originally asked the White House for $15.7 billion, and NASA chief Dan Goldin said the agency cannot make do with any less than the Clinton budget provides.

"The president's budget plan for NASA is a sound one, with reductions that still preserve a meaningful space programme," Mr. Goldin said in prepared remarks. "But this is it. We can't get any closer to the done."

Under this budget, the number of space shuttle flights would be held to eight a year at the most, and one of those could be paid for by the Defence Department.

General Jeremiah Pearson, a senior NASA space flight official, said this does not compromise safety, and denied reports that one space shuttle might be taken out of service and that one launch pad might be shut down.

Other NASA officials acknowledged that cutbacks in the shuttle programme will delay any crewed mission to the moon, one of the agency's long-term goals. No new vehicle capable of making the moon trip is foreseen for the next five years.

Mr. Pearson defended the $100 million NASA is expected to pay annually for the next four years for Russian cooperation in shuttle flights to the former Soviet space station MIR.

NASA officials said further economies will be made in cooperation with space contractors.

Turkey appoints new economy chief

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, under pressure for her handling of an economic crisis, has named a tax expert as state minister for the economy.

A spokesman for Ms. Ciller said Aykon Dogan, former head of the finance ministry's revenue department and a member of Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP), would coordinate economic policy.

It was not clear if the appointment heralded a major shift by Ms. Ciller, who has been weighing demands for an urgent austerity package against the impact this might have on voters who go to the polls in municipal elections across Turkey on March 27.

"There was a lack of coordination among economic units and Dogan can provide it," said a senior official who attended a meeting of economic officials chaired by Ms. Ciller.

Last month's money market chaos, 12 per cent lira devaluation and stock market slide provoked recriminations between central bank and treasury officials over who was to blame.

The official said Mr. Dogan would preside over daily meetings of a new money management committee to include the central bank, treasury, capital markets board and privatisation office.

He said the State Planning Organisation would "study the balances of the Turkish economy," but could not say whether this meant the agency would draw up drastic economic measures.

Mr. Dogan, 58, had been tipped as a possible choice for a finance minister.

He is to replace state minister Cemil Erhan, who the spokesman said had resigned Monday. He did not elaborate. There was no comment from Mr. Erban, who had flown to Tehran a few hours earlier to attend a Turkish-Iranian economic meeting.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take time today to plan for days ahead and maintain a cheerful manner with associates who don't seem to get your point the first time you tell them. Take the right steps to improve your health.

March 21 to April 19) Consult with fellow associates as to the best manner in which to operate in the future that will bring greater benefits to all.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have every opportunity to impress everyone with that fine charm that is yours, being under the direct influence of some wise higher-up, but which also requires that you use it wisely.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take time to get home surroundings improved and impress kin with your real talent and ingenuity. Strive for greater comfort and efficiency.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Browse around in old curio shops, advantage of bargains in large department stores, bookshops, etc., as you like to do so.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Since finances are of prime importance right now, be sure you get rid of obligations, make collections, and know that many a fortune has been started from a very small nucleus.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) While you delight in doing for others, you must now concentrate on increasing own happiness and abundance. Go after your most cherished goals since the planets are with you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Experts should be consulted today in whatever may be your line of endeavour or that you are planning to enter into now. Be very devoted to loved ones tonight.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Make it a point to contact early those acquaintances who can give fine ideas that will help to get your most cherished faster and more easily.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you are not conscientious and meticulous in all that you do, there is every opportunity that will incur the ill humour of higher-ups.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) It is important that you use the most modern systems in dealing with others now, since this is what is expected and the only way in which you can truly advance.

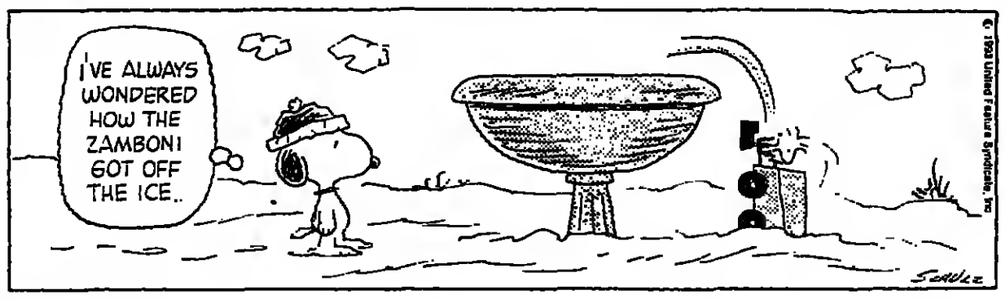
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Getting organised where assets and liabilities are concern is very wise now. Strive for much efficiency that brings greater success to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) While others may appear to be too demanding, remember that you have made promises and are expected to follow through on them.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"You lie awake worrying about money from 11:00 until 2:30, then I'll take over from 2:30 until 6:00."

Peanuts



Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MEFAD

PIGER

PRIMTO

PROWED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

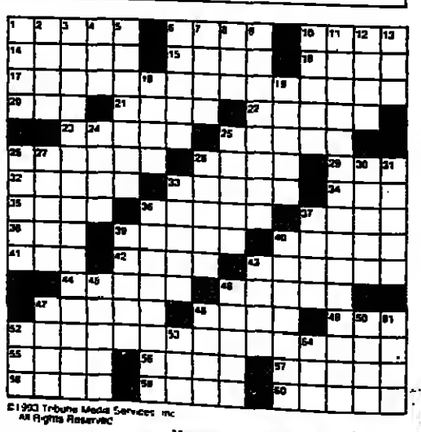
Print answer here: " ' ' "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOOSE KETCH BANANA PIGPEN

Answer: When his old girlfriend beeped him, it was — A PAGE FROM THE PAST

THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick



ACROSS
1 Successors
6 Bountiful's state
10 Stop up
14 "Believe it —!"
15 Contest
16 Little bit
17 Photography items
20 Necklace
21 Like a milquetoast
22 Weathercocks
23 Intended
25 Coup —
26 Repartee
28 Fill
29 Roofing slate
32 Typo
33 Actor Kline
34 A wood
35 Unyielding
36 Of a town
37 Eight, pref.
38 Pass through mountains
39 Cut down
40 Fists
41 Kind of rhyme
42 "— go bragh!"
43 Spa
44 Across: pref.
46 Stein
47 Do a gardener's job
48 Dotted, in heraldry
49 Exceedingly
52 Something dangerous
55 Great deal
56 Sikorsky
57 Circus performer
58 Inquires
59 Times
60 Cubic meter

DOWN
1 Cry
2 Pa. port
3 Magic feat
4 Kind of deer
5 Speak imperfectly
6 Drove
7 Hearsay
8 Expert pilot
9 Swiss protestant
10 Ear part
11 Get disoriented, in a way
12 Indians
13 Patrol
18 —-do-well
19 Devoured
24 "Go Tell — the Mountain"
25 Saul's successor
26 Wool color
27 Draw up
28 Time of day
30 Ray flower
31 TV problem
33 New Zealanders
36 Skinner the performer
37 English river
39 Signified
40 Goes AWOL
43 Italia's capital
45 Gordon and Buzzi
46 Catcalls
47 Ne — ultra
48 Wild plum
50 Nonpareil
51 Brutish man
52 Professional org.
53 Fellow
54 Aborigine: abbr.

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

UAE develops rules on certificates of deposit

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has approved new rules for certificates of deposit (C.D.) which will make it easier for banks to obtain cash in a crisis.

The central bank said in a statement Tuesday it approved the rules to "make available good investment opportunities for banks, develop adequate tools to absorb excess liquidity, and to make available sufficient liquidity to banks in a timely manner and upon their need."

Bankers said the decision was apparently a response to demands for the central bank to apply a repurchase facility to C.D.s enabling banks to obtain cash in a crunch.

They also said the move may develop the interbank market in UAE dirhams.

"The critical issue about the C.D. was that they were not liquid. The bank would not buy them back... it didn't have a 'repo facility.' " said William Allum, UAE Foreign Exchange Association president, in an interview with Reuters Tuesday.

He said such a facility enabled banks to sell the C.D. back to the central bank, "in the event their liquidity dries up."

The central bank did not use the term of repurchase facility but said its decision involved calculating interest, maturity, face value, settlement, and dealing in C.D.s.

A foreign exchange association committee met the central bank last October on ways to improve domestic liquidity with C.D.s, which carry a fixed maturity date and pay interest to commercial banks which hold them as investments.

"Interest in the central bank C.D.s has waned over the years owing to their design and pricing," Mr. Allum said.

The central bank currently issues one month, two month, three month and mix month C.D.s. Rates on Feb. 7, when the central bank took the decision, were between three per cent and 3.37 per cent, the highest returns so far this year.

The rates on the C.D. are calculated according to rates on the U.S. dollar to which the dirham is linked.

Mr. Allum said banks had to buy dollars first, sometimes at a punitive exchange rate, and that C.D.s should bear a rate of interest relative to the dirham market.

"If we want to develop the local dirham interbank market, the first thing is it should be a strictly dirham instrument, so you should actually be able to buy in dirhams," he said.

Bankers have been pushing for C.D.s to be issued for longer periods, possibly up to 12 months.

Meanwhile, officials have said that growing investments and the introduction of new fees on government services have boosted the UAE non-oil revenues by nearly 18 per cent.

Non-oil revenues were projected at 3.25 billion dirhams ($885 million) in 1994 compared with 2.75 billion dirhams ($749 million) in 1992, minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, Ahmed Al Tayer told the official UAE news agency WAM.

Most of the revenues came from investments held by the finance and industry ministry, standing at 2.28 billion dirhams ($621 million), he said. The rest came from fees on government services like health, education, residence permits and other fees which did not exist during the oil boom.

"The rise is due to a growth in investments, introduction of more fees and an increase in some of the existing fees," a ministry source said.

The non-oil earnings accounted for nearly one fifth of projected 1994 revenues of 16.2 billion dirhams ($4.41 billion). The rest is expected to come from oil and gas export earnings.

The UAE, a key OPEC producer, began to introduce fees on services 10 years ago to offset a decline in oil prices that has created a persistent deficit in its budget. It opted for such fees as an alternative for income taxes or issuing bonds to cover the deficit.

Israel, Egypt to get hefty share of U.S. foreign aid

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Israel and Egypt are the principal beneficiaries of the U.S. government's foreign aid plans for fiscal 1995 released Monday under a new system where aid is divided according to policy targets, not countries.

The $20.9 billion international affairs budget is $44 million higher than the previous year and makes up about 1.4 per cent of the total $1.5 trillion budget for fiscal 1995, which begins Oct. 1.

This foreign budget departs from the past practice of a country-by-country breakdown of aid and instead divides the funds according to the six categories of U.S. policy objectives under the proposed peace, prosperity and democracy act of 1994.

Those policies include: Promoting U.S. prosperity, building democracy, promoting sustainable development, promoting peace, providing humanitarian assistance and advancing diplomacy.

"This budget provides the core foundation for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy," said the State Department in its report on the new accounting structure. "Without adequate funds, we would have a hollow foreign policy infrastructure, inadequate to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the post-cold war world."

The division of the funding for fiscal 1995 reflects Mr. Clinton's foreign policy strategy, with nearly $2.9 billion going to build democracies abroad, notably in the states of the former Soviet Union, and $6.4 billion to achieve peace in the Middle East.

$3 billion was earmarked for Israel and $2.1 billion for Egypt. Another $75 million is to go to the Israeli occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank, with $34 million to be divided among key participants in the peace process.

The budget contains $1.6 billion for humanitarian assistance and $4.1 billion for exercising U.S. diplomacy through crisis prevention and membership in the United Nations and other international organisations.

In the past, funding was often the yardstick used for determining the importance that Washington attached to any particular country, and the threats it faced, real or perceived, from the former Soviet Union.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 08/02/1994
MORNING SESSION

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	87,710	191.500	191.500	190.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	62,615	7.790	7.750	7.650
BANK OF JORDAN	7,145	4.790	4.765	4.790
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	19,544	2.060	2.080	2.090
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	12,848	2.980	3.010	1.320
THE HOUSING BANK	20,682	6.205	6.200	6.150
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	6,622	3.150	3.140	3.140
JORDAN GULF BANK	7,188	3.190	3.190	3.160
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	24,438	4.258	4.250	4.290
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	66,685	4.500	4.350	4.360
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	212,270	4.240	4.260	4.160
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	3,938	5.250	5.250	5.250
BUSINESS BANK	4,300	4.405	4.350	4.300
BEIT ELMAL SAVING&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	910	4.603	4.595	4.590
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	200,403	1.970	1.960	1.970
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	15,922	2.440	2.450	2.440
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	1,097	2.630	2.603	2.600
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	4,730	3.660	2.660	2.640
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	29,964	2.380	3.370	2.170
IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	9,174	1.160	1.340	1.410
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	1,010	0.820	0.820	0.800
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	52,209	4.320	4.300	4.290
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	20,030	1.010	1.820	1.010
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	6,060	1.120	1.120	1.100
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	9,597	2.260	2.260	2.230
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	17,057	2.550	2.600	2.570
ATTANQEEB CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	815	1.620	1.620	1.630
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	21,362	3.120	3.090	3.090
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	4,506	10.450	10.400	10.240
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	17,815	12.400	12.300	12.300
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	33,730	8.010	8.005	8.000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	221	4.400	4.450	4.450
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	30,584	4.290	4.200	4.210
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	2,275	4.580	4.550	4.550
SPINNING & WEAVING	2,822	2.810	2.630	2.620
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	1,250	2.500	2.500	2.500
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	2,724	0.380	0.390	0.370
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	39,182	15.920	12.800	15.700
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1,770	2.390	2.360	2.350
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	42,362	10.100	10.100	10.100
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	765	1.560	1.530	1.530
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	41,709	0.470	0.480	0.470
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2,300	5.270	5.200	5.200
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	30,865	2.380	3.400	3.400
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	745	7.600	7.450	7.450
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	931	3.290	3.180	3.180
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	19,126	0.410	0.400	0.400
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	2,738	3.300	3.250	3.250
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	422	3.200	3.280	3.280
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	1,240	1.240	1.280	1.340
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	139,076	5.820	5.920	2.780
GRAND TOTAL	1,361,930			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 141276
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 261507

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 7/2/1994	Tokyo Close Date 8/2/1994
Sterling Pound*	1.4810	1.4862
Deutsche Mark	1.7605	1.7587
Swiss Franc	1.4685	1.4677
French Franc	5.9620	5.9632**
Japanese Yen	108.60	108.70
European Currency Unit	1.1068	1.1068**

* USD Per STG
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Precious Metals Date: 8/2/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	380.35	7.50	Silver	5.24	0.120

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 8/2/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7040	0.7060
Sterling Pound	1.0450	1.0502
Deutsche Mark	0.3999	0.4019
Swiss Franc	0.4791	0.4815
French Franc	0.1180	0.1186
Japanese Yen*	0.6470	0.6502
Dutch Guilder	0.3569	0.3587
Swedish Krona	******	******
Italian Lira*	0.0415	0.0417
Belgian Franc	******	******

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 8/2/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8480	1.8650
Lebanese Lira*	0.040695	0.041685
Saudi Riyal	0.1875	0.1885
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3450	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1911	0.1923
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8050	1.8230
UAE Dirham	0.1911	0.1923
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3085
Cypriot Pound	1.3235	1.3745

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. $1.00 costs	1.3413/23	Canadian dollar
	1.7590/00	Deutschemarks
	1.9707/17	Dutch guilders
	1.4707/17	Swiss francs
	36.33/37	Belgian francs
	5.9650/00	French francs
	1696.1/7.6	Italian lire
	108.68/78	Japanese yen
	7.9800/00	Swedish crowns
	7.5450/00	Norwegian crowns
	6.8267/17	Danish crowns
One sterling	$1.4760/70	
One ounce of gold	$380.30/380.80	

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S. Africa warns time running out for constitutional talks

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The South African government on Tuesday warned the conservative Freedom Alliance, bogged down in constitutional talks, that it had just five more days to get in line for the first all-race election.

Negotiations remained stalled Tuesday after overnight talks in Pretoria between the Alliance, the African National Congress (ANC) and the government failed to make any noticeable headway.

More talks could take place later this week, but under the electoral act, the final deadline for parties to register if they want to contest the poll is midnight Saturday.

"If you don't register by then, you can't fight the election," Home Affairs spokesman Niel Du Bois said Tuesday.

The Alliance, comprising the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), the Bophuthatswana black homeland and the white right-wing Afrikaner Volksfront (AVF), is holding out for more federal guarantees in the interim constitution that will come into effect after the April 26-28 election.

Unless the guarantees are given, the Alliance says, it will not contest the poll.

ANC President Nelson Mandela told reporters he was disappointed with the alliance's "inflexible attitude in spite of concessions we have made."

ANC negotiators said they offered the alliance a compromise package Monday that included increased powers for South Africa's nine new provinces and, dependant on an eventual agreement, the double-ballot electoral system the conservatives have been holding out for.

But Alliance Chairman Rowan Cronje said in a radio interview Tuesday that the concessions did not go far enough to meet the Alliance's federal ambitions.

He said provinces should have "sufficient powers and they should have the money to implement those powers."

"I would't be too optimistic," Mr. Cronje said of the chances for a settlement.

ANC negotiator Mohammad Valli Mossa echoed Mr. Cronje: "There is very little more that we can do. I don't see much hope," he said.

AVF spokesman Tienie Groenewald went further, saying the ANC's rejection of alliance demands created the "formula for a Bosnia situation."

By contrast, chief government negotiator Roelf Meyer remained relatively upbeat, saying there had been progress and that the talks were "very close" to an agreement.

Mr. Meyer told a private radio station that there had been "movement" in Monday's talks and further negotiations could produce a result.

The main outstanding issue is the powers and functions of the country's nine future provinces.

The alliance is sticking to its demand that the provinces should be totally independent of the central government, while the ANC wants the centre to retain some control.

Sources close to the talks said the ANC package included increased powers for the provinces in raising taxes, changing the name of Natal province — the stronghold of the IFP — to Natal-Kwazulu, and leaving the door open to further negotiations on the white "Volkstaat" the AVF wants.

The sources said the ANC was also prepared, if an agreement is reached, to drop its demand for a single-ballot paper in the April poll, which would have forced voters to opt for a single party in choosing members of both the national and provincial assemblies.

The ANC claimed two ballot papers would lead to voter confusion and spoiled ballots, while the Alliance said it would disadvantage smaller parties that have their power bases in the various provinces.

Experts see problems in 'right of return'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The difficult question of how — or whether — to return to Gaza and Jericho the several hundred thousand Palestinians living as refugees outside Israeli-occupied territories, was discussed as a recent symposium here.

"For the world to suggest that a large number of people should go to Gaza, is just absurd," Peter-Gubser, president of the Washington-based America-Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), said on Jan. 27, during a roundtable discussion of the implications of the Sept. 13 Israet-PLO agreement at the Society for International Development.

Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine Director Mohammad Hallaj was also a featured speaker at the talk on "The Return of Palestinian Refugees in the Implementation of the Gaza-Jericho-First Agreement." The discussion was sponsored by the Society for International Development's Refugees and Humanitarian Affairs Workgroup and the Middle East Roundtable.

Mr. Gubser argned that wbile there is "plenty of absorptive capacity" in Israel, in Gaza "the absorptive capacity today, and for the foreseeable future, is minimal." This is due to the fact that the Palestinian population, currently 800,000 in Gaza, is expected to double in 20 years.

Mr. Hallaj underscored the importance of the resettlement issue to all of the countries in the region, and predicted it would "prove the most difficult issue" to resolve.

The definition of displaced Palestinians, Mr. Hallaj noted, must be widely drawn to include "all people... who have not migrated voluntarily, who have lost their place of residence in Palestine as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Complicating the search for a solution to the problem, Mr. Hallaj said, is the fact that the "question of refugees is a national political question, not just a humanitarian issue."

These refugees, he explained, "are not just a bunch of poor people who need help. They are... a people who have lost their nationality," and, therefore, the problem's resolution "requires a political solution, not just humanitarian assistance."

While insisting on the right of return, Mr. Hallaj said, Palestinians must realise that, were they all actually to return to the area, the area would undergo serious political and economic stresses.

"From a practical point of view, there's no question that a substantial influx of returnees would create very serious burdens on any Palestinian authority or society that would emerge as a result of this process," he said.

On the Israeli side, Mr. Hallah noted, there are "fears that the presence of a large minority... of Palestinians, non-Jews and Arabs," would make the maintenance of security more difficult.

At the same time, it would be "politically fatal" for any Palestinian leader to accept anything less than a full return policy.

Thus, the right of return seems to be "something that Israel cannot accept, and the Palestinians cannot give up."

On an international level, Mr. Gubser expressed concern about continued reliance on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which, he said, was receiving funding without U.N. donor countries "thinking through why we are supporting it, and what we are supporting."

He suggested that Palestinians must "begin to play a serious role" in the West Bank and Gaza.

Germany puts off citizenship law reform

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government has decided to put off any reforms of Germany's controversial citizenship laws until after elections this October, members of his centre-right coalition said on Tuesday.

Coalition leaders also agreed to reject a draft law by the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) for dual citizenship, a key demand of Germany's 1.8 million Turks, they told Reuters.

Germany's 1913 nationality law, which defines citizenship along blood lines rather than by residence or place of birth, has come under fire after a wave of neo-Nazi violence that followed German unification in 1990.

The Free Democrats (FDP), Mr. Kohl's liberal coalition partner, and some of his fellow Christian Democrats (CDU) joined the calls for reform after five Turks were firebombed to death last May in the worst single incident of the racist violence.

After Tuesday's meeting, one participant said the coalition had no plans for any initiative in this legislative period.

"Nothing more will happen now," he said.

About six million of the 81 million people in Germany are foreigners, many of them long-term residents — often with locally-born children — who work, pay taxes and plan to stay in Germany but do not have citizenship.

Many Turks would take a German passport if dual citizenship were allowed but shy away from this if, like now, they also have to give up their Turkish citizenship and with it their rights to own or inherit property in Turkey.

British MP found dead

LONDON (R) — A rising star in Britain's Conservative government has been found dead in his London home wearing nothing but women's stockings and suspenders, police sources said Tuesday.

The death of Member of Parliament Stephen Milligan dealt a fresh blow to beleaguered Prime Minister John Major, whose government has been rocked by financial and sexual scandal and now faces an embarrassing by-election.

Monday's discovery of Mr. Milligan's body fuelled accusations of a "sleaze factor" in the Conservative government, which critics accuse of being seedy, directionless and complacent after 15 years in power.

Some reports said Mr. Milligan, a former journalist, had been strangled or died from suffocation after being bound and gagged with a ligature around his neck and a plastic bag over his head.

A police spokesman said the results of a post-mortem were inconclusive but his death is being treated as suspicious and further tests are being carried out.

Mr. Milligan, 45, was seen as one of the brighest intake of new members from the 1992 general election in the House of Commons, where he was parliamentary private secretary to Defence Minister Jonathan Aitken, a first step on the rise to ministerial rank.

Mr. Aitken stressed there were no security implications in Mr. Milligan's death.

He told BBC Radio: "There is no security angle to the sad tragedy of Stephen Milligan... He did not have access to classified information. He did not see secret papers. He was absolutely not engaged in the field of secret or even confidential information."

"He was undoubtedly a rising star. It is a terrible tragedy," Conservative Party Chairman Norman Fowler said, echoing the shock of Mr. Major, whose "back to basics" campaign for a return to traditional core family values was already in tatters.

The timing of Mr. Milligan's death could not have been worse for Mr. Major, trying to re-establish control over a party buffeted by mutinies, policy U-turns and scandals.

One junior minister resigned after admitting he fathered an illegitimate child, another stepped down after his wife committed suicide over his reported affair with a socialite.

Another Conservative member of parliament admitted he had slept in the same bed as another man on a French holiday but had not had homosexual relations.

Mr. Major, facing a severe test of his leadership in local and European elections in May and June, last week slapped down right-wing opponents in his divided party and warned Conservatives to stop sniping or be propelled out of office.

Mr. Milligan, who was single, won his seat for the Eastleigh area in southern England county of Hampshire in the April 1992 election with a majority of more than 17,000 over the centrist Liberal Democrats.

Normally his majority would be regarded as safe, but the Liberal Democrats wiped out a Conservative majority of more than 23,000 at another by-election last July.

The Eastleigh by-election could be held in May.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shumeiko to head CIS assembly

MOSCOW (AFP) — Vladimir Shumeiko, president of the Russian parliament's upper house, was elected head of a key consultative body of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the agency ITAR-TASS reported Tuesday. Mr. Shumeiko was chosen unanimously as president of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, a consultative body for the grouping of former Soviet republics, in a closed-doors meeting in Saint Petersburg Tuesday, the agency said. He replaced Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the dissolved Soviet parliament, who is now in Lefortovo Prison following last October's failed coup. The assembly, based in Saint Petersburg, aims to coordinate legislation of the different republics.

Balladur drops 6 points in poll

PARIS (AFP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur dropped six points in an opinion poll published Tuesday, but was still well ahead of his rival for the 1995 presidential elections, Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac. Mr. Balladur dropped from 62 per cent in January to 56 per cent this month in a monthly poll testing confidence in 19 politicians as presidential material. Second in the list was the Socialist President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, with 44 per cent, a one-point gain on January. Mr. Chirac, president of the Rally For the Republic (RPR), also Mr. Balladur's party, lost one point, dropping to 32 per cent. Three other right-wingers were also ahead of Mr. Chirac. Former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), the RPR's coalition partner in the government, scored 40 per cent. Interior Minister Pasqua, of the RPR, and Health Minister Simone Veil, of the UDF, both scored 35 per cent. Opposition Socialist Party leader Michel Rocard dropped four points to 27 per cent.

Zimbabwe threatens to throw out Mengistu

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe will deport exiled Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam if he plans to use the country to fight his way back to power, Zimbabwe's official Herald newspaper reported Tuesday. The daily quoted reliable sources as saying that Mr. Mengistu, granted political asylum by Zimbabwe after rebels toppled him in 1991, had violated terms of his stay by talking about Ethiopian politics to the Zimbabwean media at the weekend. "It is understood from reliable sources that the minister of foreign affairs, Nathan Shamuyarira, will see Mengistu in Harare today to inform him of the government's extreme displeasure over his weekend outburst, a breach of his asylum conditions," the paper said. "If he does not wish to abide by the conditions, he will be told he can go," the Herald added. Mr. Shamuyarira could not be reached for comment Tuesday. In a statement published by the independent Sunday Gazette, Mr. Mengistu accused Ethiopia's rulers who toppled him of killing or jailing nearly 100,000 soldiers who served under him. He said he had been requested by some of his countrymen to join efforts by a hitherto unknown Ethiopian Salvation Movement in overthrowing the current government.

Row could cost Keating a 3rd minister

CANBERRA (R) — Allegations that Australia's sports minister used a multi-million dollar sports funding programme to shore up Labour Party support threatens to cost Prime Minister Paul Keating his third minister in two months. Only weeks after Industry Minister Alan Griffiths was forced to quit over claims of financial impropriety, Environment and Sports Minister Ros Kelly was battling to keep her job. Mr. Kelly stands accused of spending Australian dollars 30 million ($21.5 million) of government sports funding to guarantee votes for Labour in the runup to the 1993 election. The Australian Democrats, a small party with the balance of power in the Senate, the upper house of parliament, demanded Tuesday that Ms. Kelly appear before a lower house inquiry into the so-called sports rorts affair. The Democrats threatened to establish a Senate inquiry headed by a former judge if she did not co-operate.

Hosokawa named in alleged scandal

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's embattled Prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa faced a new headache Tuesday as a major magazine claimed his family had received one billion yen ($9.17 million) from a scandal-tainted businessman. In it current issue, Bungei Shunju said Mr. Hosokawa's family got the money over several installments since the early 1980s from Kiyoshi Sagawa, head of the Sagawa Kyubin Transport Company. The cash enabled Mr. Hosokawa to finance his campaign for election in February 1983 as governor of the powerful southern Japanese prefecture of Kumamoto, the monthly magazine said. It also went to pay for the renovation of a house in Kyoto City, it said in the article titled "the alien prime minister." Ryozo Nagata, an official of Mr. Hosokawa's new party, acknowledged to the magazine that the Sagawa company had paid for the renovation of the house in Kyoto, but he refused to confirm the billion-yen figure.

China launches 2 satellites

BEIJING (AFP) — China successfully launched two satellites into orbit Tuesday, in the first test of the new generation Long March 5A rocket, the Chinese media announced. The rocket, with a 2.5-tonne payload capability, blasted off at 4:30 p.m. (0830 GMT), according to the evening television news, which showed footage of the launch. According to the official Xinhua, the rocket released a "simulated" satellite and a scientific satellite into low sychronised orbits. The scientific satellite, the SJ-4, will probe charged particles and their effects in near-earth space.

Hungary signs partnership deal with NATO

BRUSSELS (R) — Hungary signed a new military partnership deal with NATO Tuesday but stressed that it, like many other Eastern European nations, was aiming for full membership in the 16-nation Western Alliance.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky signed the "partnership for peace" agreement at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, the latest in a rush by former Communist states eager to prepare for joining the alliance despite Russian objections.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko was due to sign later Tuesday. Poland, Lithuania, Estonia and Romania have already done so and Bulgaria is expected to sign next week.

"I am very happy that the ship of the state of Hungary is now firmly anchored in the Atlantic compact but we expect to sail into the safe harbour," Mr. Jeszenszky told reporters.

"We see it as a road leading to full membership."

The partnership deal, offered by a summit of NATO leaders last month, will include joint training, exercises and defence planning but makes no offers of membership or security guarantees that Eastern European states want.

Mr. Jeszenszky said, however, that Hungary attached great importance to political consultations with NATO, particularly if it feit its security was threatened.

He said the agreement showed that NATO was ready to project stability to the East and take on extra responsibilities in the post-cold war world by helping the young democracies there.

Russia, Ukraine discuss disarmament

KIEV (AFP) — Russia and Ukraine began crucial negotiations Tuesday on implementing an historic deal signed with the United States last month that calls for the dismantling of Ukraine's nuclear weapons and their destruction in Russia.

Russian and Ukrainian delegations from the defence, foreign affairs and atomic energy ministries were to discuss details of the agreement, in particular compensation for the nuclear ammunition contained in 176 long-range missiles slated for dismantling under the U.S.-Russia-Ukraine agreement.

A spokesman for Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko said the talks began two hours later than scheduled due to the late arrival of the Russian delegation due to bad weather in Moscow.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valery Shmarov was quoted by Interfax Tuesday as saying that the negotiating teams were to work out six accords as a followup to the Moscow declaration signed on Jan. 14 between President Leonid Kravchuk, his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"Fair compensation for the nuclear arms withdrawn from Ukraine, the timetable for their transfer to Russian territory and nuclear fuel shipments from Russia will be at the core of the six accords", Mr. Shmarov said.

Under the Moscow agreement, the United States was to buy from Russia 500 tonnes of weapons-grade uranium from the dismantled Ukrainian weapons at a cost of $12 billion.

Ukraine was to receive $1 billion in compensation and guaranteed deliveries from Russia of nuclear fuel needed to operate its power stations.

Ukraine's parliament agreed Thursday to amend a previous resolution that set a series of conditions for ratification of the START-1 nuclear disarmament agreement, but it fell short of adhering to the 1968 treaty on nuclear non-proliferation as a non-nuclear state.

The vote in parliament was interpreted by the Ukrainian leadership as a mandate to lead the country towards a nuclear-free status, Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk said.

But the head of the Russian delegation at the talks, Yuri Dubinin, said he boped the talks would serve to clarify the parliament's position, which he described as "ambiguous," Interfax reported.

"It's still unclear whether Ukraine intends to eliminate 100 per cent of its nuclear weapons," Mr. Dubinin said.

Belarus and Kazakhstan, two republics which inherited, along with Russia and Ukraine, the nuclear arsenal of the former Soviet Union, have since raised claims to part of the compensation promised to Ukraine.

Belarus and Kazakhstan have ratified the TNP that calls on both countries to become nuclear-free.

Belarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich told Mr. Clinton during a visit to Minsk last month that his government expected to receive part of the $12-billion compensation package.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who travels to Washington next week for talks with Mr. Clinton, was also expected to raise the issue of further compensation for Kazakhstan, presidential advisers said.

Mudslides hit disaster-prone southern California

LOS ANGELES (R) — A fierce winter storm brought more misery and destruction to areas already devastated by wildfires and last month's earthquake, burying homes in torrents of mud, trapping residents and washing away cars.

More than a dozen expensive beachfront homes were inundated by mudslides in the Malibu star colony, 20 miles (35 km) west of Los Angeles, as rain-soaked hillsides, stripped of vegetation by last year's raging fires, suddenly gave way.

Some people became trapped in their homes and were rescued by city workers who picked them up in the scoops of bulldozers and earthmovers and drove them to safety.

Hundreds of people were ordered to evacuate, and many were seen streaming out of the area in cars, vans and on foot, carrying whatever belongings they could grab. No injuries were reported.

"I've never seen anything like it, a wall of water and mud coming down the hillside," one resident said.

The mudslides were the latest blow to an area struggling to recover from the Jan. 17 earthquake that killed 60 people, damaged or destroyed more than 20,000 homes and apartments and caused losses estimated at up to $30 billion.

Exclusive oceanside homes of stars and entertainment industry executives in the Malibu colony faced double jeopardy — mudslides from the mountains and eight-foot waves crashing in from the Pacific.

Police reported walls of mud sweeping across the Pacific Coast Highway from the mountains and through the doors of homes, carrying furniture out of ocean facing doors and on to the beach.

Heavily travelled Pacific Coast Highway was buried in some places in up to four feet (one metre) of mud and water.

Some drivers were trapped in their cars and had to be pulled to safety. More than a dozen parked cars were washed away.

"I turned the corner to go up the hill and as I looked to make the next curve, there was this huge bank of mud coming towards me," said Vera Smith, who managed to escape from her car before it was swept away.

"Unbelievable, unbelievable. Things you see in the movies, it was happening to me," she said.

People who lost power in last month's earthquake found themselves in the dark once again as the storm knocked out electricity to more than 3,000 homes in Malibu.

In the mountains north of Los Angeles, a huge avalanche blocked off a road leading to major ski resorts and rescue workers feared a vehicle may have been buried in the tonnes of snow that swept down.

"There are tire tracks going in, we don't see any coming out," a rescue worker said.

Elsewhere, tornado-like winds tore down trees and power lines.

Meanwhile, seismologists said the magnitude of last month's devastating Los Angeles earthquake was upgraded Monday to 6.7 on the Richter Scale.

The increase from the original 6.6 reading was announced by U.S. Geological Survey scientists at the California Institute of Technology after studying measurements from seismographic stations around the world.

But officials at the National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado — considered the final word on quake magnitude — have said the figure could be raised to as high as 6.8 when their experts review the data Tuesday.

The latest measurements indicate that the Jan. 17 Northridge earthquake — which killed 60 people and crumpled freeways — was actually much stronger than scientists first thought.

Each increase of one full point on the Richter Scale represents a tenfold increase in the ground motion — and thus the destructive potential — generated by a quake.

Earthquakes radiate different levels of energy in certain directions, so seismologists come up with a final figure based on an average gathered from a network of authorised seismic laboratories around the world.

As a result, magnitude figures for major quakes often change within a few weeks of their occurrence as more distant stations report.

At least one station in Sweden put the Northridge earthquake's magnitude as high as 7.2, said John Misch, a spokesman at the National Earthquake Centre.

Calling the Swedish measurement far outside the norm, Mr. Minsch said any increase in the final magnitude would likely be small.

A change in the magnitude could be more than just academic. Insurance company representatives have expressed interest in any upgrade, saying it could have an impact on how they assess damage claims.

Seismologists believe the quake occurred on an unnamed fault related to the Elysian Park Thrust Fault System that sweeps through downtown Los Angeles, the Hollywood Hills and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Houston shares awards spotlight with rapper

LOS ANGELES (R) — Whitney Houston walked away with eight American music awards Monday, but she had to share the spotlight with a performer who wasn't even nominated. The show's organisers provoked some criticism when they chose 'Gangsta' rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg to perform at the show. Dogg, whose debut album Doggystyle was one of last year's biggest releases, is currently free on bail after being charged with involvement in a drive-by shooting. His performance, which drew some of the loudest applause, pitted free speech advocates against those who believe that rap has gone too far in its depiction of violence. Dogg, who charmed reporters with his witty, easygoing manner, received support from big noters such as Meat Loaf and Aerosmith, as well as the show's producer Dick Clark. However, history will recall that it was Houston's night. She won seven of the eight categories in which she was nominated and was presented with a special "award of merit" by Stevie Wonder. This takes her tally at the awards to 19, sharing the top spot with Kenny Rogers. Another Kenny — Kenny G — kept Houston from going one better when he won the Best Adult Contemporary Artist. The 30-year-old Houston was accompanied to the ceremony by her rapper husband Bobby Brown and their toddler daughter Bobbie — who at one stage was brought out onto the stage. Houston said afterwards she expected to win a few awards but not so many. Houston contributed six songs to last year's biggest selling album, The Bodyguard and sang last year's biggest single I Will Always Love You, which has sold more than four million copies in the U.S. She won the favourite album and single in the pop/rock and soul/RB categories as well as Favourite Adult Contemporary Album. Houston was also the favourite female pop/rock and soul/RB singer. The American Music Awards, with the exception of the special awards, are decided by votes cast by about 20,000 American record-buyers. Other multiple winners included rock veterans Aerosmith with favourite hard rock band and favourite pop/rock band. The awards were accepted by guitarist Tom Hamilton and bass player Brad Whitford.

It's all Greek to me, says Italian minister

ATHENS (R) — Italian Transport Minister Raffaele Costa walked out of a European Union (EU) ministers' meeting in Athens because there was no Italian translation, Italian diplomatic sources said. "The minister left the meeting to protest the lack of translation," they said, adding he would also boycott a pan-European conference on transport on the Greek island of Crete in March. Diplomats said even informal ministerial meetings of EU countries normally have interpretation into all the group's languages.

Naked cop nabs car thief

LOS ANGELES (R) — One minute police officer Charles Jarusek was showering, the next he was nabbing a car-theft suspect. According to police, Mr. Jarusek was in the shower when two suspects fleeing police broke into his home to hide, believing it was empty. Mr. Jarusek leaped from the shower, pushed one of the men against a door and ordered him to lie down. The second suspect ran from the house, into the waiting arms of pursuing police. "When they (his fellow officers) came in, I told them I normally wear a gun and a badge," Mr. Jarusek said.

Mass samba attracts 250,000 in Copacabana

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — An all-night samba extravaganza led by 250 drummers and other percussionists from eight samba schools attracted 250,000 dancers, organisers said. The "open wings" dance, sponsored by a local beer manufacturer, was planned to promote carnival here. It has been hurt by crime and increasingly popular pre-lenten celebrations in Bahia, Brazil. In another event, train robber Ronald Biggs, a British fugitive living here, sponsored a trip by 1,000 people to a beach with a reputation for attracting beautiful women.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maleeva wins in 1st round in Chicago

CHICAGO (R) — Fifth seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria beat American Tami Whitlinger 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 in the first round of the $400,000 Virginia Slims of Chicago women's tennis tournament Monday. Maleeva, ranked 13th in the world, will next face Marianne Werdel of the United States, who advanced when Sophie Amiach of France retired from their match because of a leg injury with the score 6-4, 3-2. No other seeded entries played in the first day of the week-long event. Top seed Martina Navratilova, who has won the Chicago event 11 times, opens play Wednesday against fellow American Audra Keller. Navratilova, ranked third in the world, lost last year's Chicago final in three sets to Monica Seles. That was Seles's last win on the tour before she was stabbed last May in Germany. Second seed Lindsay Davenport will face fellow American Amy Frazier and third seed Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic will play American Sandra Cacic.

Sampras wary of French clay

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (AFP) — Pete Sampras, the first player in three decades to win three straight Grand Slam tennis titles, doubts he can add the French Open crown to the list. "It's on clay and it doesn't suit my game," Sampras said Monday. "I'm a serve and volley player. I'm not as consistent from the backcourt." Sampras, who plans to join the U.S. Davis Cup team this spring, called winning in Paris the greatest challenge of his career. "If, one year, I can get lucky and come away with a French Open title, that would be very satisfying to me," Sampras said. Sampras will play here next week in his first tournament since winning the Australian Open title last month.

9 accused of fraud in Brazilian scandal

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Four soccer directors and five referees have been accused by federal police of fraud for their alleged involvement in Brazilian soccer's match-fixing scandal, police said Tuesday. The directors include Eduardo Viana, president of the Rio de Janeiro Soccer Federation, and Eurico Miranda, a director of leading club Vasco da Gama, a federal police spokesman said. The accusations were brought following a month-long investigation by federal police into the scandal, which erupted in December. The nine have also been accused of forming a criminal gang, a punishable offence under Brazilian law. Under the Brazilian judicial system, the police report will now be analysed by a state prusecutor and a judge who will decide whether the nine should be formally charged and sent for trial.

Eubank king of the screen

LONDON (AFP) — Chris Eubank once again proved to be the most popular sports draw on British television at the weekend. Eubank's successful World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight title defence against German Graciano Rocchiagini proved to be more popular than football's 'match of the day.' The contest had an estimated 12.1 million viewers — four times more than the football. The top TV audience in 1993 ws 16.4 million for the grand national while 16.3 million fans watched Eubank's world title fight with Nigel Benn.

England warning for Wembley

LONDON (AFP) — Wembley's owners were warned Tuesday that they risk losing England internationals and the Football Association (F.A) Cup final if they do not give the Football Association a bigger slice of their profits. The F.A. wants to renegotiate tbeir contract with Wembley, which runs out in 2002, because they claim the stadium takes too much of the commercial revenue. The F.A. complain they receive nothing for perimeter advertising, programme sales, refreshments, bars or car parking. In addition, they get around only one-third of the gate receipts and television money.

Newcastle target Dutch defender

LONDON (AFP) — Dutch international Ulrich van Gobbel is Newcastle's latest target as the English title-chasers bid to strengthen their depleted defence. The 23-year-old Feyenoord defender moved to the top of Newcastle's wanted list after they found Anderlect's Philippe Albert too expensive at £3 million. However, Newcastle, who sold centre-back Kevin Scott to Tottenham last week for £850,000, have some haggling to do if they are to sign van Gobbel. Feyenoord value the Dutchman at around £ 1.3 million, but Newcastle have so far offered only £750,000, which was rejected. Southampton had more joy in the transfer market Tuesday, completing tbe signiog of striker Craig Maskell from fellow premiership strugglers Swindon for £250,000. Maskell, who started his career with Saints, scored 19 goals to catapult Swindon into the premiership last season, but has been unable to win a regular place this term.

Former basketball star Michael Jordan takes batting practice Monday (AFP)

Michael Jordan signs baseball contract

CHICAGO (R) — The Chicago White Sox signed Michael Jordan to a minor league contract Monday and said the retired basketball superstar would report for spring baseball training Feb. 15.

"I'm ready for it," Jordan told a news conference. "I'm not afraid to fail ... But I will not accept not trying."

Under the contract, Jordan was assigned to the White Sox's triple-A farm team in Nashville, Tennessee and invited to spring training as a non-roster player.

Terms of the contract were not revealed, but Jordan said he was making vey little money from the deal.

Jordan shocked the sports world when he announced his retirement from basketball last October. He led the Chicago Bulls to three consecutive National Basketball Association (NBA) titles and retired with the best career scoring average (32.3 ppg) in league history.

While Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf also owns controlling interest in the Bulls.

White Sox Vice-President Ron Schueler said Jordan's chances of making the major league team will depend on his peformance, adding, "be'll have to earn the job. Nothing's going to be given to him."

Jordan, who will turn 31 in 10 days, has not played baseball on a competitive level since high school.

Jordan held a workout for the media at the Keating Sports Centre at the Illinois Institute of Technology Monday.

Jordan, who began private workouts at Chicago's Comiskey Park in December, admitted to being nervous at the workout, but said he was pleased with his progress.

"I've put a lot of hard work into this," Jordan said.

Jordan, who has practised as an outfielder, has said that he would play a year in the minor leagues if the White Sox believe he has the potential to play in the Majors.

Jordan has ordered a shipment of bats and has asked for number 45 to be assigned to him if he is signed. Jordan wore 23 during his stellar career with the Bulls.

Jordan, a three-time most valuable player (MUP) and three-time NBA finals MVP, is one of only two players to win seven consecutive scoring titles.

Miami come back to knock off Knicks

MIAMI (R) — Steve Smith scored 25 points and Rony Seikaly and John Salley tallied 22 each as the Miami Heat mounted a big comeback from a 17-point first-quarter deficit to knock off the New York Knicks 96-85 late Monday.

The Heat snapped a 10-game losing streak against New York, which was coming off an impressive victory over Orlando Sunday that had given it the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Home has not been so sweet for the Heat, who raised their home record to 11-12 but are still the only team in the NBA with a winning road record (12-10) and a losing home mark.

Miami has won seven of its last nine to improve to 23-22, marking the latest point in a season the Heat have ever been over the .500 mark.

Miami, trailing 52-41 at the half, outscored the Knicks 41-18 to take an 82-70 lead with 6:46 remaining in the game.

New York was limited to 12 third-quarter points and shot only 4-for-12 in the period.

The Knicks bolted to a 34-20 lead after one quarter but sputtered to an 18-point second quarter and never recovered.

Patrick Ewing faltered with 16 points one day after outduelling Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal. He shot just 6-for-23 in the game, including 2-for-12 in the second half.

In Atlanta, Stacey Augmon scored 26 points and Mookie Blaylock added 18 as the Hawks recorded the largest margin of victory in franchise history in a 141-97 rout of the Detroit Pistons.

The 44-point win eclipsed the previous franchise record of 42 points accomplished twice — by the St. Louis Hawks over the San Diego Rockets in 1967 and by the Atlanta Hawks over the Philadelphia 76ers, in 1989.

Dominique Wilkins added 17 for the Hawks, who recorded a seasoo-best in points and also shot a season-high 64 per cent from the field to retake the top spot in the East at 33-12.

In Philadelphia, Clarence Weatherspoon notched his first career triple-double with 15 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists to lead the 76ers past the reeling Charlotte Hornets 125-117.

Jeff Hornaeek added a season-high 36 points, 20 in the first quarter, and Tim Perry netted a career-high 31 for the Sixers, who won for the fifth time in their last eight games.

Perry made a team-record seven 3-pointers (7-of-15) as Philadelphia attempted a club-record 30, one shy of the NBA record.

Hersey Hawkins scored 31 points and Muggsy Bogues had a career-high 24 to pace Charlotte, which lost its season-high seventh straight game.

At Indiana, Reggie Miller had nine of his 17 points in the fourth quarter while Rik Smits had a season-high 28 points and 13 rebounds as the Pacers extended their winning streak to six games

Hundreds sign Sarajevo message

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Hundreds of people in Lillehammer signed a simple message of solidarity to Sarajevo's besieged and bloodied Bosnians Tuesday, 10 years to the day since the winter Olympics opened there.

Bosnian Olympic Committee President Stepan Kljuic watched Lillehammer Mayor Audun Tron write in a special book on the Olympic town's main square.

In 1984, all eyes on Sarajevo for a sports celebration, tbe first Winter Olympics in Eastern Europe.

Now, it is the suffering and bloodshed from a 22-month civil war that capture The world's attention. Thousands have perished and much of the city, including many of its Olympic venues, is in ruins.

More than 300 townspeople and visitors in Lillehammer had signed the book by midday, and it was to remain open until the evening, organiser Nitak Kapoor said.

The message reads: "The inhabitants and visitors in Lillehammer send their deepest sympathy and warmest greetings to the troubled people of Sarajevo.

Jordan soccer league championship to enter decisive stage Wednesday

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 12 competing teams in the Kingdom's first division soccer championship Wednesday enter a crucial round that might well affect their prospects for an advanced standing or their fight to avoid relegation in the case of the last four.

Al Hussein who finished second after Al Faisali in 1990 and 1992 have now dropped to third place after their 3-2 loss to Al Ramtha last week. They will next play 10th placed newcomers Al Fuheis who lost 2-0 to Al Ahli in the opening week of the tournament's second leg which kicked off last Monday.

This week's most awaited clash will be that of Al Faisali and Al Ramtha at Amman International Stadium.

Al Faisali have already clinched the 1993 Cup Winners' Cup and Jordan Cup titles, *while Al Ramtha* won the Federation Shield.

Titleholders Al Faisali still lead the standings with the best scoring record and no losses for now. They last beat Al Arabi 4-1.

During the past week, Al Ramtha jumped from fourth to third place after their win over Al Hussein. Therefore, their clash against the titleholders might be a turning point in their quest for another of the season's four titles.

In another match, Al Qadissieh will face second placed Al Ahli.

Al Qadissieh this week moved from 8th to 6th after a crushing 6-2 win over Al Yarmouk and joined tbe all-time big teams in top six positions.

Meanwhile, former champions Al Wihdat will have an opportunity to advance their standing when they face lowly Al Baqaa in one of this week's six matches.

Al Wihdat are still in fifth place after a 3-0 win over Al Jazireh which dropped to eighth place.

In other matches, bottom-of-the-league Sahab, 3-0 winners over Al Baqaa last week, will face Al Yarmouk, while Al Arabi meet Al Jazireh.

Standings after 12th round

Team	P	W	D	GD	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	12	10	1	1	—	29	6	33
Ahli	12	7	3	—	2	20	9	27
Ramtha	12	7	1	1	3	20	10	24
Hussein	12	5	3	2	2	19	9	23
Wihdat	12	5	2	2	3	10	8	21
Qadissieh	12	3	3	2	4	15	14	17
Arabi	12	3	3	—	6	15	26	15
Jazireh	12	2	4	—	6	13	16	14
Yarmouk	12	4	—	1	7	12	23	13
Fuheis	12	3	1	1	7	8	19	12
Baqaa	12	3	1	1	7	8	22	12
Sahab	12	2	2	1	7	12	19	11

Harding to know fate after opening ceremony

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — The U.S. Olympic committee (USOC) said Tuesday it will call a hearing on wbether to dismiss Tonya Harding from the figure skating team at the Winter Olympics.

Harding's lawyers have been notified of the decision and she will be asked to appear, the USOC said. There was no immediate word if Harding would testify.

The hearing will be held in Oslo next Tuesday, three days after the Winter Olympics begin but six days before the deadline for substituting members of the women's figure skating lineup.

"The hearing will deal with the issues of conduct which have been raised during the last several weeks during the law enforcement investigations into the attack on skater Nancy Kerrigan... and the U.S. Figure Skating Association's review as it related to the same issues," a USOC statement said.

Any decision reached by tbe 13-member games administrative board is final. If she is dismissed, she would have to go to court if she wanted to regain her spot on the team.

Harding has a paid roundtrip plane ticket to Oslo as a member of the U.S. Olympic team. The board must determine who pays for transporting Harding's attorneys and witnesses, and USOC President Leroy Walker will decide how many votes are needed to reach a verdict.

Last Saturday, a U.S. Figure Skating Association (USFSA) panel found "reasonable grounds" to believe Harding was involved in the plot to injure Kerrigan and knock her out of the national championsbips Jan. 6.

It sent the matter to an internal disciplinary panel and gave Harding 30 days to respond. Harding's lawyers in Portland, Oregon, said Monday that Harding was "concentrating on her preparation for the Olympics and working with ber attorneys on a response to the request of the USFSA."

Harding would make no further statements for 72 hours, they said.

Because of the 30-day window, it is unlikely the USFSA inquiry will be finished before the Winter Olympics close.

USOC Executive Director Harvey Schiller said the 400 pages of evidence gathered by the figure skating panel were among the factors that would help decide if the USOC panel hears the Harding case. The information was expected in Lillehammer by Wednesday, Moran said.

National polls in recent days found that most Americans think Harding knew in advance about the attack, but most think she should be allowed to skate in the Olympics if she is not charged with a crime.

CBS news reported Monday that its poll found 54 per cent think Harding was involved in planning the Kerrigan attack and 63 per cent say Harding is lying about what took place. Those results from a poll of 900 adults Sunday have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

A grand jury in Portland is investigating what role, if any, Harding played in the assault on Kerrigan.

Harding has admitted tbat she learned details of the plot after it happened, but failed to immediately tell autborities what she knew. She said she feared retaliation from her ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, if she revealed her information.

Gillooly pleaded guilty to a racketeering count in a plea bargain and has testified that Harding was involved in the plot and the cover-up.

At the Olympics, Harding and Kerrigan will not room together, but they will practice together.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 10 4
♡ A Q 9 7 4
◇ Q 4
♣ 10 9 7 6

WEST
♠ A K J 7 6 5 2
♡ 8 5
◇ Void
♣ A K J 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 6 3
♡ 6 3
◇ 10 9 6 5 3
♣ 5 4

SOUTH
♠ Void
♡ K J 10 2
◇ A K J 8 7 2
♣ Q 8 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ◇	1 ♠	Dbl	2 ♠
4 ♡	4 ♠	5 ♡	Pass
Pass	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

In yesterday's column we featured a hand from the 1992 World Team Olympiad where underleading an ace registered 8.4 on the Richter scale of disaster. Had the perpetrators done some research they would have been served an early warning by this hand, played three days prior.

No one will ever be able to say West was not full value for the one-spade overcall—most players we know would have bid four spades immediately. The result was a competitive auction in which South took the push to six hearts—a contract that was sure to go down after the lead of the king of clubs. Or was it?

East followed to the first trick with the four of clubs, showing an even number in the signaling methods of the East-West partnership. Apparently West decided that down three was not good enough (club ace, club ruff, diamond ruff) or that East held *four* clubs. Whatever the reason, the defender shifted to a low spade at trick two!

The operation was a success (East held the queen of spades), but the patient died (declarer ruffed). After drawing trumps, declarer set up diamonds with a ruff and discarded the table's three remaining clubs on diamonds while ruffing dummy's last spade. That produced 12 tricks—four hearts, two spade ruffs, five diamonds and a diamond ruff.

Ah well, perhaps later this year we'll be treated to some more of these "expert" defenses.

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Arabic
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DOC HOLLYWOOD
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
CONCORD "2"
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Gaza PLO looks to Arafat after Israeli crackdown

By ... West

GAZA — An I... li campaign to hunt down Pa...stine Liberation Organisat... (PLO) activists in the ... Strip has weakened the ...ganisation's local leadership ...d left them waiting for the ...urn of PLO leader Yasser A...at for salvation.

Israel and the Palestinians dispute the causes and motivation of a sweep in which scores of armed activists from the PLO's main faction Fateh have been arrested and at least two killed by Israeli troops in the last two weeks.

But the net impact of the campaign on Gaza, the laboratory for future Palestinian self-rule, is clear.

It is the latest in a series of blows which has weakened the independent power base of street leaders in the last few months, just as PLO headquarters in Tunis has quietly begun to build up structures and reassert control in the anarchic strip.

Fateh leaders who came up from the streets are struggling, and largely failing, to contain a mysterious flood of illegal weapons into the strip, a wave of unexplained killings and loss of their own popularity as they become associated with delays in implementation of the peace deal.

Meanwhile, a new Tunis-approved leadership of Fateh in Gaza has been appointed which Palestinian sources say is now busy consolidating — behind closed doors — disparate support for the group in social and political instutitions across Gaza.

"It is clear Israel is concerned to weaken our authority before it comes to power. But we are sure this picture will change when the national authority comes to power," said Ahmad Hillis, one of a 13-man Fateh coordinating committee in Gaza.

Israel is intervening to enforce its own idea of a PLO hierarchy. The Hawks from the street have to obey the Gazan leaders. The Gazan leaders have to obey Tunis ... and where else does Tunis have to go except Israel?" said another local leader who declined to be named.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, describing the arrests as self-defence by Israel's army, on Sunday called the armed Fateh activists, known as Hawks, "a very dangerous bunch."

"They (the Hawks) are continuing terror. They are not operating with Fateh officials on the ground and they don't accept instructions from Fateh officials," he said.

Israel and the PLO agreed a ceasefire in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when they signed a peace agreement for Palestinian self-rule last September.

Until two weeks ago when the arrests began, Hawks were known to have broken this once, killing a Jewish settler in October.

But since the arrests began, the two sides are now in a spiral of attack and counter-attack in Gaza.

Israeli troops rocketed a house in Rafah and undercover soldiers shot dead an activist in an alley. Hawks have thrown two grenades at Israeli troops injuring three and vowed to continue fighting the Jewish state if the hunt continues.

Many Palestinians think that may be just the pretext Israel wants to carry on what they see as a piece of political engineering to tame Fateh's local leadership and increase its dependence on PLO leaders coming from Tunis.

The Hawks, young street fighers who led the Palestinian uprising against Israel's army and forced the PLO's leadership in Tunis to sit up and take notice, are now rapidly being absorbed by mainstream PLO structures, or bypassed.

A few have gone for training in Egypt to join the Palestinian police force that will accompany Mr. Arafat back to the Israeli-occupied territories. A few more have taken leadership positions in Fateh-controlled offices and institutions in Gaza.

But many more are out in the cold, getting gradually demoralised because they have nothing to show for trading in their power and status as fighters.

Prosecutor opposes special trial for sheikh

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A prosecutor, calling for equality under law, demanded on Tuesday the trial of a former Kuwaiti oil minister accused of making illegal profits be held in a criminal court and not in a special court sought by the defence.

"The general prosecution does not deal with a defendant according to his belonging to a political or a social group," state prosecutor Sultan Bou Jarwa told a criminal court.

"It adopts one standard, which is equality before the law."

Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, one of the most senior members of the ruling Sabah family to be accused in a criminal trial, and four former shipping executives are accused of receiving illegal profits from state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC).

Mr. Jarwa rejected a key defence submission that criminal courts had no jurisdiction in cases involving ex-ministers and demanded the court reject a defence request for the case to be transferred to a special court.

Sheikh Salman Al Sabah, a lawyer for Sheikh Ali and a former justice minister, rejected the prosecution arguments. "This talk is imprecise and is an illegal error," he said.

The other four defendants — former KOTC chairman Abdul Fatah Al Badr, former deputy KOTC chairman for financial affairs Hassan Qabazard and former KOTC officials Nasim Mohsen, a Jordanian, and, Timothy Stafford, a Briton — face further charges of embezzlement and forging documents.

A judicial official has said the case before the court alleges wrongdonig involving about $100 million.

Last month, parliament rescinded a law that would have protected Sheikh Ali by trying him before a more lenient five-judge tribunal created for government ministers.

The law was ordered in 1990 while parliament was suspended. The legislature was reinstated in October 1992, less than a year after a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Sheikh Ali's lawyers argued last month that the parliament's action was void because the law did not need to be ratified in the first place.

The prosecution maintained that even if the law of special tribunals was still standing, it would not apply to Sheikh Ali because its effect was not retroactive.

"The crimes took place in the years 1986, 1987 and 1988, before the law was effective," said Prosecutor Jarwa.

Mr. Qabazard, who was released on bail last month after 14 months in custody, attended Tuesday's session. Abdul Fatah Al Bader fled the country before the case went to court.

The Jordanian and the Briton, allegedly involved in a scheme of leasing tanks in their own names and then releasing them to the companay for inflated prices, were being tried in absentia.

At the end of Tuesday's hearing, the court was adjourned until March 22. The judge turned down a request by the prosecution to return Mr. Qabazard to custody.

Mr. Qabazard's lawyer, Jalil Al Tabbakh, told reporters his client was being followed around by police agents and was banned from travelling outside the country.

"If they think this is right, they have to do this for all of the defendants," the lawyer said. He said Sheikh Ali had been permitted to leave the country many times before and after the first day of trial.

Mr. Qabazard has denied carrying out an embezzlement operation but has admitted acquiring money from KOTC operations on the instructions from his then superior, Mr. Badr.

Officials say they believe Sheikh Ali, chief architect of Kuwait's worldwide oil empire, is the first ex-cabinet minister to be tried for alleged offences connected with his job.

Egyptian security forces stand guard in front of the National Bank in Cairo's Ramses Street late Monday, shortly after a bomb exploded there, causing minor damage (AFP photo)

Ambassador-designate to Jordan sees goals as democracy, peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton's nominee to serve as U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley William Egan, Jr., testified at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Monday.

(Also appearing before the Senate panel that day was Robert H. Pelletreau, nominated to replace Edward P. Djerejian as the new assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs.)

Both nominees heard assurances from the committee's acting chairman, Senator Patrick Moynihan (Democrat of New York), that the panel will expedite their confirmations. The committee plans to vote on both nominations Wednesday, Mr. Moynihan said.

In his testimony to the committee, Mr. Egan said that "an active Jordanian role in support of a comprehensive, regional peace" would be his highest priority in Amman.

Following is the text of Mr. Egan's prepared testimony to the committee:

"Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today as the president's nominee as ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. I am honoured to have been asked to continue to serve in the region after my last three years as deputy chief of mission in Cairo.

"If confirmed I look forward to working with the committee and others in the Congress on our bilateral relationship with Jordan and in the pursuit of peace, stability and development in the region.

"Also if confirmed, my wife, Virginia, will be my active and indispensible partner in this assignment, as she has been in South Africa, Portugal, Zambia, Guinea-Bissau and Egypt.

"The last two years, and especially the last several months, have been a period of important progress in the search for peace in the Middle East: progress in which the United States government and the American people should take great pride. I was fortunate to be on the South Lawn of the White House on Sept. 13 and to watch the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian declartion of principles. That declaration is an historic step toward the comprehensive peace which has for successive administrations so dominated our foreign policy in this troubled region.

"The next day, Jordan and Israel initialled a common agenda for "the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arab states, the Palestinians and Israel as per the Madrid invitation." That Jordanian-Israeli agenda concluded with the expectation that the negotiations the agenda launches will, "culminate in a peace treaty" between both governments. Mr. Chairman, the pursuit of that peace, and an active Jordanian role in support of a comprehensive, regional peace will be my highest priority in Amman.

"We also have other important and complementry policy objectives in this bilateral relationship. They include:

— "Stability, democratisation, economic development and respect for human rights;

— "The strengthening of sanctions against Iraq;

— "The end of the Arab boycott of U.S. firms that trade with Israel and the promotion of U.S. trade, commercial and investment opportunities in Jordan and the region: and

— "Cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

"Mr. Chairman, it is my hope that the Senate will confirm the confidence the president and Secretary Christopher have expressed in me by this nomination and that I will soon be in a position to welcome you to Amman in support of the important work that lies ahead."

Biographic sketch

Wesley William Egan most recently served as deputy chief of mission at the United States embassy in Cairo, from 1990 through July 1993. Earlier in his career, he had served as ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Since joining the foreign service in 1971, Mr. Egan served as vice consul/second secretary in Durban, South Africa; as special assistant to the secretary for the political affairs in Lisbon, Portugal; as deputy chief of mission of the American embassy in Lusaka, Zambia; as chief of staff to the deputy secretary of state (1985-1987); and as deputy chief of mission in Lisbon (1987-1990).

Mr. Egan is the recipient of the Department of State Superior Honour Award and the Presidential Meritorious Service Award.

Mr. Egan was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1946. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with honours, in international studies from the University of Carolina in 1968. He is married to the former Virginia Gildersleeve Warren. They have two children.

Sudan denies offensive

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan said Tuesday its army in the southern civil war zone was still on the defensive and fighting reported there was between rebel factions.

A Foreign Ministry statement said government forces in the south were under orders to open fire only in self-defence or to protect civilians.

Relief agencies in Kenya and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have reported a big government offensive apparently aimed at cutting rebel supply lines from Uganda.

The rebels said in Nairobi on Tuesday that 18 villagers were killed by a government air raid on Sunday.

The Foreign Ministry statement dismissed as unfounded U.S. government accusations that Khartoum's forces showed no regard for the lives of southern civilians.

"They were all civilians in shops, houses and so on," said Philip Lomodong Loku of the SPLA's relief wing in Nairobi.

Mr. Loku said that in a fresh spate of bombing the planes bombed the village of Arapi, the SPLA's headquarters which are also close to Uganda, on Monday. He also reported raids on Narus, near the frontier with Kenya, but could give no casualty details.

Mr. Loku said scored of civilians had been wounded in air raids and ground attacks in recent days against refugee camps and villages south of Juba.

At least 110,000 terrified refugees and villagers are moving south towards the border

Iran names 'mastermind' behind Rafsanjani plot

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A police officer who had served under the late Shah of Iran was the mastermind behind last week's plot to kill President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian said Tuesday.

But Mr. Fallahain did not say if Morteza Mehrpur, purged from the police force after the 1979 Islamic revolution and arrested several times since for links to the Marxist People's Fedayin, was among the 20 suspects arrested on Monday.

The Fedayin was crushed following the revolution.

A gunman fired several shots as the president addressed a gathering in the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to mark the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution last Tuesday, but nobody was hurt.

The 26-year-old gunman, Kurush Nik-Akhtar, was arrested immediately after the incident.

Mr. Akhtar had twice tried to join Iran's Revolutionary Guards and had worked as a journalist in Negaghan" magazine and other publications. Mr. Fellahian said, according to Tehran Radio report on Tuesday.

His picture was published for the first time Monday on the Hamshahri newspaper's front page.

Mr. Fallahian, quoted on Monday by Hamshahri, said the 20 suspects either knew about the plot or played a direct role and had confessed to having "ominous and counter-revolutionary aims."

Several of the suspects are former members of leftist groups who served jail terms because of their "immoral and corrupt records," he said.

The minister added that the suspects had held a meeting the night before the incident to coordinate the attack and to ensure its success.

Mr. Fellahian said in Tuesday's radio report that one of the 20 suspects had links with several unnamed foreign embassies, but refused to divulge his name for security reasons.

The rest, many working for Iranian newspapers, had no direct role in the shooting, but helped the main suspects in their aims, Mr. Fallahian said.

The suspects had attended Friday prayers several times at Tehran University with the intention of carrying out an attack, but were thwarted each time by tight security, he said.

The minister revealed that the gunman was severely beaten by the crowd in the shrine, who grabbed him after the shooting.

However, the radical daily Salam questioned the official version of events, asking why the gunman should have fired when he had no chance of hitting the target.

The authorities have also arrested 40 alleged spies for Iraq and 16 "terrorists" planning bomb attacks in the past 11 months, Mr. Fallahian said.

The authorities also discovered and disposed of 20 bombs which the "terrorists" had smuggled into Iran but two security officers were killed when four other bombs exploded, Mr. Fallahian told Tehran Radio.

Mr. Fallahian said the bombs were brought into Iran by "global arrogance."

Mubarak: Militants under security control

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak promised protection for foreign investors Tuesday and said his government was tackling head-on the militants fighting to overthrow him.

Mr. Mubarak said the militants, who planted three bombs in central Cairo Monday and warned all foreign tourists and investors to leave Egypt, were a small group with no links to Islam.

"These operations are under control. We are not afraid to face them with all determination because these people are a minority of criminals that have nothing to do with Islam," he told reporters after a meeting with visiting Austrian President Thomas Klestil.

Only one of the three bombs planted on Monday evening exploded. No one was hurt.

"We are providing the necessary security to any investors living in Egypt, either Egyptians or foreigners," Mr. Mubarak said.

The militant Al Gamaa At Islamiyah (Islamic Group) said Monday it would concentrate its next attacks on the tourism and investment industries in Egypt. It advised tourists and investors to leave the country saying anyone who helped the government was a legitimate target.

It said: "In view of the conflict currently raging between the secular and anti-Islamic regime of Hosni Mubarak and the Gamaa Al Islamiya ... our defence will aim mostly at tourism and investment as the two main axes of pressure to deter this fascist regime."

At least five bombs exploded in Cairo last year, killing more than 25 people and wounding about 50.

Three foreigners have been killed and dozens injured in Egypt in attacks over the last two years. The last fatal incident was on Feb. 26 last year.

Mr. Mubarak said extremism and terrorism were problems all over the world, and that international media gave too much prominence to violence in Egypt. "The media focus on what happens in Egypt as if these things were restricted to Egypt alone and this is not true," he said.

The Gamaa group, the largest violent fundamentalist organisation in Egypt, has not attacked any foreigners since late December.

"The Gamaa considers this urgent warning as exonerating us before God for all the lives which will inevitably be lost in the midst of this bitter confrontation," the group said in its latest statement.

The government dismissed a similar statement from the Gamaa last week, saying it had "no voice, no ideas and no aim."

The earlier attacks have done serious damage to the Egyptian tourist industry, which once brought in about $3 billion a year, receipts from tourism fell at least $900 million last year.

Monday's bomb exploded at a branch of the Central Bank of Egypt in a main avenue at 8.40 p.m., long after staff had gone home.

It shattered some windows in the 15-storey shopping centre housing the bank, and caused light damage in a nearby shop.

Police found two other explosive devices outside two banks in downtown Cairo but they did not explode and were dismantled, security sources said.

An Interior Ministry statement said the bomb that exploded was primitive and was concealed in an insecticide can.

Beilin defends Talbott against Jewish critics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defending Strobe Talbott as "a very good man," Israel's deputy foreign minister said Monday his critical articles for Time magazine were no reason to reject his nomination to be deputy secretary of state.

Yossi Beilin, at a news conference, said Mr. Talbott's Jewish opponents in the United States do not speak for Israel and that "generally speaking, he is friendly to Israel."

Mr. Beilin also said, however, not everything Mr. Talbott wrote is "my cup of tea."

Two Republican senators, accusing Mr. Talbott of "extreme views" on Israel, urged President Clinton to withdraw his nomination.

Connie Mack of Florida and Alfonse D'Amato of New York said in a letter that Mr. Talbott had blamed Israel in part for instability in the Arab World, the Lebanese civil war, undermining U.S. relations with Europe, the Arab states and the Third World, and for the spread of Soviet influence in the Middle East.

"His views seem to be not only completely out of sync with what we believe are your own, but with every American president over the past generation," the senators said.

Ms. Mack and Mr. D'Amato had previously voted to confirm Mr. Talbott in his current post, U.S. ambassador-at-large to the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Talbott, whose nomination was to be taken up Tuesday by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote critically at times about policies of Israel's Likud government. Mr. Beilin, an architect of Israel's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), is prominent in the Labour Party now governing the country.

Last week, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs said Mr. Talbott's views disqualified him from the No. 2 post at the State Department. Two other Jewish groups, the Zionist Organisation of America and the National Jewish Coalition, distributed excerpts of his writings.

The former Time magazine bureau chief and diplomatic correspondent wrote in 1990 during the Gulf war that Likud's claim to the occupied West Bank had "something in common" with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Talbott also called then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's assertion of a "greater Israel" as ominous for peace in the Middle East as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's "militant nostalgia for Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian empire."

Nine years earlier, the Jewish groups said, Mr. Talbott wrote that Israel "was well on its way to becoming not just a dubious asset but also a downright liability to American security interests."

Mr. Beilin, referring to the Jewish groups, said "If there are people who are criticising the nomination, they are not speaking in behalf of my government."

Mr. Beilin said his personal opinion was that Mr. Talbott "is a very important and a very good man. I don't see any reason to reject his nomination."

On another subject, Mr. Beilin defended PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, saying "to the best of my impression this man is committed to peace with Israel" even though "we have never had a worse enemy than Arafat."

Mr. Beilin said Israel found during secret negotiations last year in Oslo, Norway, that it was "dealing with human beings and not with demons."

Abu Nidal disowns Beirut killing

(Continued from page 1)

witness accounts and have circulated identikit pictures of the suspected assassin and his accomplice to security agencies.

Last Wednesday, a previously unknown group opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks claimed it killed Mr. Maaytah and warned Norway its interests faced attacks if it aids peace talks.

The Palestinian Organisation of Ouja — named after a town on the West Bank — made the claim in a telephone call to the Beirut newspaper Al Safir.

Jordanian Ambassador Fakhri Abu Taleb said earlier that the Lebanese authorities were close to identifying those behind the killing.

The Beirut newspaper Al Nahar said police arrested two FRC members who had confessed to the killing, but it said the confessions "were not final."

Abu Nidal is believed responsible for a series of attacks in the 1970s and 1980s including strikes on Rome and Vienna airports, in which dozens of people were killed, and hijackings.

COLUMN 10

Billionaire splits from wife who wowed Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. billionaire Jack Kent Cooke will announce he is ending his fourth marriage by declaring it "void" because his wife's divorce from her previous husband was invalid, the Washington Post reported. Mr. Kent, octogenerian owner of the Washington Redskins football team, is calling it quits after three and a half years of marriage to Bolivian-born Marlene Ramallo Chalmers, whose colourful escapades had riveted Washington. "I am dreadfully sorry that it's come to this," Mr. Cooke told the Post. Ms. Chalmers, whose age is variously reported as anywhere from 37 to 42, Could not be reached for comment. In a statement obtained by the post, Mr. Cooke said Marlene's divorce from David Chalmers, a Houston oil executive who married her in 1985, "was falsely obtained in the Dominican Republic on Aug. 4, 1986." David Chalmers could not immediately be reached for comment. Because of statutes outlawing bigamy, Mr. Cooke declared "we are not legally married and never have been." Ever since she wed Mr. Cooke in 1990, Marlene's life has been a constant source of fascination in and around the nation's capital. She had finished serving four months in federal prison for conspiracy to import cocaine before the wedding and ever since her 1986 bust, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service has been seeking to deport her. In 1992, she was treated for a mysterious gunshot wound in the hand. In one of her more recent escapades, she was arrested on Sept. 15 for hurtling through the capital's Georgetown nightlife district with a man pounding on the hood of her Jaguar convertible. She allegedly chucked a gold shoe at the arresting officer in that incident. After her arrest, it was widely reported that she and the man on the hood were frequently seen socialising.

Paul Anka honoured by French

PARIS (AP) — It was France's hottest slow dance of the summer of '68. Canadian songwriter Paul Anka heard it while vacationing on the Riviera, bought the rights and wrote it his way. Twenty-five years after "My Way" became Franec Mon-Way" became Frank Sinatra's signature song, the 52-year-old Anka was back in France Monday to be honoured for the classic song. Anka gave a heavily applauded performance in French and English at the French music industry's annual awards ceremonies in Paris. He was then named a knight in the Prestigious Order of Arts and Letters by Culture Minister Jacques Toubon. U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a telegram congratulating Anka, who lives in the United States, for the song's phenomenal success. It has been recorded 600 times and sold 300 million records around the world.

Judge blocks opening of Maxwell musical

LONDON (R) — An English high court judge granted an injunction preventing a musical on the life of the late media tycoon Robert Maxwell from opening in London this week, the show's producer said. Evan Steadman told reporters the judge decided the show could not open as scheduled, at the request of the attorney-general, England's chief law officer. "I am very disappointed the show cannot go on and of course I shall respect the decision of the court," Mr. Steadman said after a closed-door hearing. "However, I am about to see my lawyers to discuss the possibility of an appeal," he said. A lawyer connected with the case said the judge granted the injunction on the grounds that "Maxwell: The Musical" would create a "substantial risk" of serious prejudice to the trial of Maxwell's sons Kevin and Ian and four other men. The six men face a criminal trial later this year on fraud-related charges connected with the collapse of Maxwell's publishing empire after he died mysteriously at sea in November 1991.